Oberlin

MODERN LIFE, P. 14 | WHAT WORKS IN EDUCATION, P. 16 | MACARTHUR SPARKS, P. 20 | OLD SCHOOL INK, P. 22

OBERLIN ALUMNI MAGAZINE WINTER 2013

ROCK N' ROLL HEART

Doctor, inventor, musician Billy Cohn '82 keeps the beat

it doesn't take much to make a difference...

.....it only takes one.

People often say, "Well, what can I do? I'm only one person."

To that we reply, "You can do a lot. One person can change the world." And it's true. It only takes one person with a great idea to write the next world-changing novel or score the next epic symphony. It only takes one person with a vision to make a scientific breakthrough that alters the course of history.

And it only takes one person to inspire hundreds or thousands more. Each person inspired is "only one person." And if all alumni out there knew the difference they could make for Oberlin, we know that each of them would give back to the school that taught them that one person truly can change the world.

Go on. Make a difference. Inspire other Obies to give. Change the world.

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Oberlin

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DALE PRESTON '83

ABOVE: Oberlin Board of Trustees Vice Chair Diane Yu '73 moderated a discussion with MacArthur fellows Ralf Hotchkiss '69, Diane Meier '73, Richard Lenski '77, and Thylias Moss '81. See page 20.

COVER: TEXAN'S INSTRUMENTS Billy Cohn '82, doctor, inventor, rock n' roller.
PHOTO BY SERGIO SANTOS

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JOHN SEYFRIED

WHAT WORKS IN EDUCATION: LET THE DISCUSSION BEGIN

This issue of the *OAM* focuses attention on a topic close to the hearts of Oberlin alumni—education, particularly kindergarten through 12th grade education. Oberlin was founded to train teachers and preachers, so it is not surprising that teaching and working in education—whether in higher education, K-12, or arts and music education—tops the list of Oberlin alumni occupations. Indeed, whenever I talk with alumni about their concerns, the future of public education almost always emerges as a top priority.

The essays in this issue represent a range of experiences and ideas. But they cannot begin to encompass all the wisdom and views on education held by our alumni. So editor Jeff Hagan and I invite you to join in the dialogue.

As a parent, and as a person who teaches and writes about education, I am struck by the thoughtful comments of our alumni experts. I share their concern that we nurture well-rounded, resilient young people who discover and cherish the spirit of inquiry. I, too, believe our society should reward teachers who inspire and students who succeed regardless of background.

Here in Oberlin, our commitment to education is demonstrated every day. Many of our students work in the local schools, mentoring and tutoring in subjects ranging from Spanish to math to reading and writing poetry and making their own films. Each year, many of our graduates go on to careers, and, in some cases, second careers, in teaching. Even alumni who have other occupations are often active volunteers serving on school boards, PTAs, and in tutoring and mentoring programs.

Oberlinians' commitment to educating themselves and others flows from our traditions and history, and from the work and values of the faculty, staff, and students of the college and the conservatory. I share the concern expressed by many about the divisions in our country and their effects on education. Our public schools, especially since *Brown v. Board of Education*, have been seen as the gateway to greater understanding and to engaged citizenship in our democracy. Oberlin's legacy inspires us to work to create those conditions even in the face of adversity. We salute all those in the Oberlin family who—in so many ways—make a difference in the lives of young people here and around the globe. For, to paraphrase the famous Talmudic saying, whoever saves a life has saved an entire world.

MARVIN KRISLOV
President, *Oberlin College*

THE ARTS AT OBERLIN THIS WINTER AND SPRING

February 5
Artist Recital Series
Steven Isserlis '80, cello, &
Jeremy Denk '90, piano

February 7
Convocation
Kwame Anthony Appiah & Johnnetta Cole '57

February 7-9
Oberlin Theater
Lucia Mad

February 8
Artist Recital Series
The Cleveland Orchestra

March 3
Artist Recital Series
Leipzig String Quartet

March 7
Convocation
An Evening with Dr. Harold Varmus

March 10
Artist Recital Series
Deborah Voigt, soprano

March 13-17
Opera Theater
Die Fledermaus

April 2
Convocation
An Evening with Dr. Lisa Randall

April 9
Convocation
An Evening with Maya Lin

April 18-20
Oberlin Theater
The Laramie Project

April 28
Artist Recital Series
Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra

Details and ticket information:
www.oberlin.edu/artsguide

REVOLUTION NUMBER IX

Your article ("The Whole IX Yards," Fall 2012) hit home with me. From 1967 to 1971, the years I attended Oberlin, athletics for women meant cheerleading and synchronized swimming. Maybe there were other offerings for women, too, but certainly athletics for most students meant football, basketball, soccer—all for men.

Title IX has had an outsized impact on American life by granting women access to resources and programming previously reserved for men. It has also broadened the appeal of athletics and fitness to an even wider swath of American life. Even those who were never athletes are now exercising regularly and longer in life for health benefits and a personal sense of wellbeing.

Entry level athletics programs in local communities and high schools rival those offered in small colleges like Oberlin. Many of the bright students Oberlin wants to attract are also athletes. To draw these students, we need to look seriously at our financial commitment to teaching our students to adopt a healthy lifestyle. What we don't provide, other colleges will.

There are some bright spots. The track is state of the art and beautiful. The new indoor facility in the old hockey rink is also attractive and much needed.

But the college has failed to keep pace with comparable schools in updating its facilities. The Phillips complex predated the momentous changes in our view of what it means to be a healthy individual. Its locker rooms, pool, and fitness centers need updating to serve all Oberlin students, not just men. The field house, which once housed a good basketball program, had serious structural problems before it was torn down. The football stadium has crumbling concrete stairs and grass turf, which limits its use in bad weather. Not important, you say? Our local high school has five artificial turf fields used by both men and women in all sports, not just football.

This is not about promoting big time college athletics, which often distort (if not abuse) the educational mission. Our aim should always be to help our students be the best they can possibly be. If excellence is the college's goal in all things academic and musical, excellence should be its goal in fitness and athletics, too.

I applaud you for a long overdue article on an important issue for the college's future. I urge alumni to consider seriously the need for updating our athletic complex as part of the Illuminate campaign.

Sandy Nethercott Waters '71
Greenwich, Conn.

When I was assistant vice president for development/alumni in the late '70s, with the football team down to 16 players and another capital campaign underway, I was asked to develop a plan to raise money specifically to refresh football—coaches, equipment, facility upgrades, etc. I suggested we broaden the scope to also include coaches for the struggling women's athletic and varsity sports program and build more strongly, as Title IX was already more than five years "in play." Title IX took place in my senior year and was actually a component of the Jack Scott and Tommie Smith efforts that school year.

When I took on the assignment and sat down face-to-face with the leadership of the Downtown New York Athletic Club—the entity behind the Heisman Trophy, I shared with them our football needs (given Heisman's Yeomen efforts) and the ongoing "start-up" of women's varsity sports. They accepted and gave me permission to apply the Heisman name to our efforts (only such approval provided by the club), and Oberlin's John W. Heisman Club was quickly and firmly established.

Yes, today "every team has a head coach and an assistant and budgets—but it took a while." Had the Heisman Club just energized football, women's varsity sports would have taken many more years to truly get where it needed and deserved to be!

It appears this broader approach to athletics that we advocated continues. In the just-announced new campaign, there is major focus once again to improve health, wellness, varsity sports, intramurals, and club sports!

Go Yeo!

Martin Dugan '73
Holland, Mich.

ETCHED MEMORIES

Paul Arnold left a legacy of love and generosity that touched hundreds, if not thousands, of lives ("Losses," Fall 2012). During the years I spent as a student in Oberlin's printmaking studio, the most relished moments occurred when Paul would invite me into his office for a chat. I vividly recall the books on his shelves; artwork on the walls; evidence of his work in progress; his favorite hat; and most distinctly, the faint smell of pipe tobacco. He was encouraging and questioning, epitomizing the core of a good liberal arts education. At the end of the day, he would get on his bike and ride home to his family to whom he was equally devoted. The down-to-earthiness with which he lived his life exudes from his woodcuts. His color block prints achieved simplicity of design and expressed the significance of being. Go gently then Paul. Continue the journey on your bike through a river of images and lived moments resonating with the spirit of love.

Andrew Buck '85
Douglaston, N.Y.

MORE CIVIL RIGHTS STORIES

Your article on alumni memories of the civil rights movement (Summer 2012) did a very impressive job of covering a huge amount of material. It is important to remember, however, that there were hundreds of thousands of people of African heritage who risked their jobs, their homes, and their lives to end the system of white supremacy in the Deep South, whose names are not recorded and who never receive the honor they so deeply deserve.

Matthew Rinaldi '69
Albany, Calif.

Oberlin Alumni Magazine welcomes comments from readers. Please address your letters to: *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, 247 W. Lorain St., Suite C, Oberlin, OH 44074-1089; phone: 440.775.8182, or e-mail: alum.mag@oberlin.edu.

Letters may be edited for clarity and space. Additional letters may appear on *OAM*'s website at www.oberlin.edu/oam.

MATTHEW LESTER

I DEC RE
MY
PERS HOOD

GO YEOPEOPLE

ERIK ANDREWS

WABASH CANNONBALL STOPS IN OBERLIN

The Yeomen football team achieved something they hadn't done since 1945: beating the number-10 ranked Wabash College. Final score for the November 3 game, which was played at Wabash's Hollett Little Giant Stadium in Crawfordsville, Ind., was 31-16. ●

NO SLUMP FOR SOPHOMORES

Carey Lyons '15

The women's cross country team turned in its best performance in school history on November 17 with a ninth-place finish at the NCAA Championships. With a trio of second-year runners leading the way, the team beat last year's 15th-place showing and recorded the best finish out of any school from the Great Lakes Region. "It was another amazing group effort by these young women," says Head Coach Ray Appenheimer, referring to runners Carey Lyons, Emma Lehmann, and Lindsay Neal. "For three sophomores to carry us like they did all year is truly outstanding, and it means the future is bright for this team." The team earned its fourth straight North Coast Athletic Conference Championships title on October 27, placing four runners in the top five. Junior Molly Martorella finished first and was named NCAC Runner of the Year. ●

NOW PLAYING

LIVE FROM OBERLIN

Missing Oberlin athletics? Now you can watch the games from home. The athletics department has been streaming home athletics events since 2008 and produces 80 to 100 live events per year. ●

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.GOYEO.COM/STREAM.

The Oberlin Conservatory of Music began live-streaming concerts from five campus venues this fall. All live-streamed concerts are available free of charge for the 2012-13 academic year. The programs include faculty and guest artist recitals, chamber music concerts, large student ensembles (such as the Symphony Orchestra), Chamber Orchestra, Contemporary Music Ensemble, Oberlin Jazz Ensemble, and other programs. A September performance by violinist Jennifer Koh '97 was among the fall's live-streamed events. ●

VISIT OBERLIN.EDU/CONSERVATORY AND CLICK ON LISTEN LIVE TO LEARN MORE.

ELIZA BELL

The chai truffle is a creation of French Broad Chocolates in Asheville, N.C., owned by Daniel Rattigan '02 and his wife, Jael. Learn more about French Broad and many more delicious Obie business ventures in the spring 2013 issue of the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*.

OBERLIN ALUMNI MAGAZINE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Are you a farmer or a chef? A baker or a chocolate maker? Someone who works on food justice and security issues? Our spring issue will be dedicated to food—the food our alumni, students, faculty, and others in the Oberlin community grow, make, sell, and think and write about. If your connection to food goes beyond just eating it, we'd like to hear from you. In addition to what we include in the magazine, we'll be compiling an online directory of Oberlin alumni food enterprises and an online recipe book. E-mail us at alum.mag@oberlin.edu, with FOOD in the subject line. ●

MATTHEW LESTER

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded a $355,090 grant last spring to chemistry professor **Matthew Elrod** (left), who studies issues of air pollution and climate change. Elrod and his students are seeking a more precise understanding of the interaction between naturally emitted and man-made chemicals in the atmosphere. ●

- **Associate politics professor Michael Parkin**, who studies how the Internet and new media affect campaign behavior—specifically how congressional candidates' websites affect campaign strategies, risk-taking, and negativity—received a $37,000 NSF grant to extend his data collection into the next several election cycles.
- **The NSF awarded prestigious Graduate Research Fellowships last spring to May 2012** graduates Alison O'Connor and Ben Altheimer; both will receive funding for three full years of graduate school. O'Connor is pursuing a PhD in chemical oceanography at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, while Altheimer studies biophysical chemistry at Harvard. They were among 17 Oberlin students and alumni honored by the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship competition—one of the best showings from Oberlin in recent years. Alumni fellowship recipients were Diana Chong '06, Alexander Krohn '10, Jasmine Mote '09, Hannah Neprash '07, Cyrus O'Brien '08, and Ardon Shorr '09. Hannah Fuson '11, Hadley Iliff '09, Ariel Kahrl '09, Michael Lemon '07, Andrea McQuate '10, Chase Nelson '10, Bryne Ulmnschneider '09, Margaret Zimmer '11, and Nathan Harris '11 received honorable mentions.
- **Hilary Neff '13 and Rachel Manning '14 were named 2012-13 Dalai Lama Fellows**, a global program that awards grants to young social entrepreneurs. The women are working together to tackle the issue of food injustice by leading an outdoor education gardening program for schoolchildren in a small Appalachian coal-mining town in Kentucky.
- **Christopher Pickens '14 is the second Oberlin student to earn the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship** from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A biology and geology major at Oberlin, Pickens will receive up to $8,000 for two years and be provided with a summer internship. He hopes to do research in marine biology and work to "mitigate harmful fishing practices and manage population density of endangered species."
- **Assistantphilosophy professor Kate Thomson-Jones earned a highly competitive fellowship** from the American Council of Learned Societies to support her work in the philosophical examination of the digital arts. Thomson-Jones, who studies the philosophy of film, aesthetic formalism, and the value of art, will use the stipend (up to $35,000) to finish a book on digital art.
- **New faculty members at Oberlin this year** include someone who studies ruby-spotted damselflies, another who researches Native American pirates, a history prof who looks at the role of marketing in 20th-century U.S. foreign policy, a man who has joined his father on the faculty, a former White House fellow, a puppeteer, and a real, actual Dame. For information on new faculty hires for 2012-13, visit oberlin.edu/oam.
- **Robert Lewis Kahn Hall, a residence hall for first-year students who pledge to make sustainability part of their everyday lives**, has earned a Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Silver rating. The three-story building on North Professor Street is named for the late Oberlin athlete and philanthropist Robert Lewis Kahn '55, who has given the college in excess of $34 million. ●

ExCo Class OR Cable TV Show?

The list of names below contains either a recent class in the Experimental College (ExCo), or a show currently (or soon to be) on a cable television network, or both. Can you tell which is which? (Answer key below.)

1. Ninjago
2. Baguazhang
3. Zen/Gardening

4. How to Boil Water

5. Mom's Cooking
6. Asian Cuisine
7. No Kitchen Required
8. Mexican Made Easy
9. Monty Python's Flying Circus
10. Battlestar Galactica
11. Argentine Tango
12. Curiosity
13. Destroy Build Destroy
14. Defiance
15. Oppression & Resistance
16. American Greed: Scams, Scoundrels and Scandals
17. American Standup
18. #SoMeXco
19. Life
20. Girls in Motion
21. Doctor Who
22. Murder in the U.S.
23. Untamed and Uncut
24. Dames and Dark Cities

25. Russian Dolls

26. Tanked
27. Lift Every Voice
28. Exalted
29. HoopCo
30. Girls

31. Cats 101

32. Inside Men
33. Going Deeper
34. Competitive Computer Programming
35. Frozen Planet
36. Beyond Gnarly
37. Ink Master
38. An Introduction to Jewish Humor
39. Intro to Contortion

40. Ballroom 101

1. CARTOON NETWORK; 2. EXCO; 3. EXCO; 4. FOOD NETWORK; 5. LIFETIME; 6. EXCO; 7. BBC AMERICA; 8. FOOD NETWORK; 9. EXCO; 10. EXCO AND BBC AMERICA; 11. EXCO; 12. DISCOVERY; 13. CARTOON NETWORK; 14. SYFY (AIRS SPRING 2013); 15. EXCO; 16. CNBC; 17. EXCO; 18. EXCO; 19. DISCOVERY; 20. EXCO; 21. EXCO AND BBC AMERICA; 22. EXCO; 23. ANIMAL PLANET; 24. EXCO; 25. LIFETIME; 26. ANIMAL PLANET; 27. BET; 28. EXCO; 29. EXCO; 30. HBO; 31. ANIMAL PLANET; 32. BBC AMERICA; 33. EXCO; 34. EXCO; 35. DISCOVERY; 36. EXCO; 37. SPIKE; 38. EXCO; 39. EXCO; 40. EXCO.

ADINA LANGER '06 IS PARTNERING WITH KEN GROSSI, THE COLLEGE ARCHIVIST, TO DOCUMENT AND PRESERVE EXCO'S HISTORY BY COLLECTING ORAL AND WRITTEN HISTORIES FROM THOSE INVOLVED WITH EXCO'S CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT FROM 1967 TO THE PRESENT. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT, VISIT EXCOHISTORY.OMEKA.NET.

Skritter

CHARACTER BUILDERS

EJ DICKSON '11

Skritter, a Chinese and Japanese language learning program founded in 2008 by Nick Winter '08, George Saines '08, and Scott Erickson '08, released a free mobile app on iOS in June.

Since its launch in April 2009, the service has received rave reviews from language students all over the blogosphere, with CNET Asia blogger Ryan McLaughin writing that Skritter has "the potential to boost any student's Chinese character reading and writing ability quickly and efficiently."

Winter started working on Skritter as part of his honors project in computer science. He enlisted Erickson and Saines, his housemates, to help him develop the program, and the three put together a winning proposal for a $30,000 grant from Oberlin's Creativity and Leadership (C&L) program to help fund the project and form a start-up, Inkren ("ink people" in Chinese) LLC. They secured additional funds to launch Skritter through an investor they met through C&L and a grant from the Lorain County Community College Innovation Fund.

The inspiration for Skritter came from an unlikely source: a Nintendo DS game called "Trauma Center: Under the Knife" that Winter often watched his roommate play. "Basically, it was a game where you're a surgeon and you operate on these ninjas while these other ninjas try to attack you, and you have to do surgery by making incisions into the patient's body with a stylus," he explains. "And I just thought, wow, it'd be awesome if I could learn Chinese characters like that." ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SKRITTER AND INKREN, VISIT WWW.SKRITTER.COM OR OBERLIN.EDU/OAM

COOL JOB

Q: WHAT'S SO COOL ABOUT YOUR JOB?

KELLY A. DOBOS '01
TITLE: RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN THE SKIN BEAUTY RESEARCH LAB AT THE AMERICAS RESEARCH LABORATORIES OF KAO USA

I use my chemistry background to formulate skin care products for the Jergens brand. I don't think people realize just how much science goes into the products they use every day. Molecular orbital theory explains the way some sunscreens work, and the principles of physics explain how a pearlescent pigment can have a white mass tone but shift to any color of the rainbow depending on the viewing angle.

It's amazing to see something I developed in the lab scale-up to production and on shelf out in the marketplace or mentioned in a major beauty magazine. That's the other cool part of my job: I get to travel to New York City frequently to talk to beauty editors about the science behind the products I develop. And in just a few days, I'm traveling to the U.K. and Spain to help support our brand's extension into Europe.

I really do love my job! ●

Sandra Zagarell, Donald R. Longman Professor of English, hosted a gathering for faculty, staff, and friends at her house this fall for a special televised presentation. So what was it that kept their attention? A presidential debate? Election results? The National Book Awards? **TURN THE PAGE TO FIND OUT.**

JOHN SEYFRIED

BOOKSHELF

STEALING ALL TRANSMISSIONS: A SECRET HISTORY OF THE CLASH

RANDAL DOANE, ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDIES, OBERLIN COLLEGE

MUSIC WORD MEDIA GROUP, 2011

For Clash fans, the photograph on the cover of this book is instantly recognizable as the Pennie Smith-clicked image that adorned the jacket of the group's 1979 two-record bonanza *London Calling*. Doane sees the concert at which that iconic photograph was taken, earlier that year at the Palladium in New York, as a pivotal moment in the history of both the group and rock music, when long-form rock journalism, free-form FM radio, and an English punk band at the top of its form all came together perfectly. Doane's storytelling is orderly and informed, but still highly personal, as he recalls his own intersections with (as the sticker affixed to the jacket of *London Calling* brashly put it) "the only band that matters."

Hanji Unfurled: One Journey into Korean Papermaking

AIMEE LEE '99

THE LEGACY PRESS, [illegible]

Lee's deep curiosity and commitment to craft have led her to a career as a multidisciplinary artist, working in printmaking, cartooning, bookmaking, installations, and performance art. Between 2008 and 2009, she studied *hanji*, the craft of handmade paper, as a Fulbright Fellow in South Korea. The product of that exploration was an explosion of paper-based objects, including bowls, lamps, jewelry, and, well, paper—and this book, Lee's account of her search for a traditional Korean papermaking teacher.

Irving Berlin's American Musical Theater

JEFFREY MAGEE '83

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2012

As the writer of the only song that's been recorded by Lady Gaga, Bob Marley, Ernest Tubb, Doris Day, Panic! at the Disco, and Alvin and the Chipmunks ("White Christmas"), Irving Berlin holds a unique place in American music history. Magee, associate professor of music and theater at the University of Illinois, weighs Berlin's impact on American theater, but in the process shows Berlin's broader impact on American culture and character. The Russian Jewish immigrant understood that Americans dream of more than white Christmases.

meanwhile

EIGHTH BLACKBIRD

CEDILLE RECORDS, 2012

The Oberlin-born, Chicago-based, Grammy-winning new-music sextet eighth blackbird has never been afraid of the unknown. Sometimes that means half its members play harmonica on a piece while the other members trade solos. And it might mean an album conceived as a house with many doors. Eighth blackbird is happy to open these doors to explore the stories found within. *Meanwhile* includes world-premiere recordings of three works written for the adventurous young ensemble the *New York Times* calls a "polished, personable, routinely dazzling sextet."

Nostalgia, My Enemy

SAADI YOUSSEF, TRANSLATED BY SINAN ANTOON AND PETER MONEY '86

GRAYWOLF PRESS, 2012

This collection of poems from the last decade by self-exiled Iraqi-born Youssef, who lives in London, covers the horrors of the Saddam Hussein regime and the horrors that took place after it. Money, a poet who teaches at New Hampshire's Lebanon College and directs Harbor Mountain Press, has collaborated before with Youssef, on 2004's hybrid prose-poem sequence *To day-minutes only*. Money's poetry has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, the *Sun*, the *Berkeley Review*, the *Hawaii Review Solo*, and his own collections, and in the City Lights anthology *Days I Moved Through Ordinary Sounds*, as well as on Garrison Keillor's podcast "The Writer's Almanac."

CHANNEL 1

Have you noticed that Obies are all over the small screen these days?

We're not just talking about Lena Dunham '08, whose starring role as post-grad Hannah Horvath, not to mention her writing and directing credits, for HBO's *Girls* has put her at the forefront of all TV critics' (professional or otherwise) must-watch list. At the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards in late September, *Girls* was nominated for four Emmys, including Outstanding Comedy Series. Although Dunham didn't win any of the three Emmys she was individually nominated for, she certainly played a memorable role in the award show's opening sequence.

But Dunham wasn't the only familiar name at the Emmys. Author and historian Geoffrey C. Ward '62 won for Outstanding Writing for Nonfiction Programming for his work on PBS's *Prohibition*, a three-part documentary film series by Ken Burns. Daniel Radosh '91 was among the team of writers to win for Outstanding Writing for a Variety Series for Comedy Central's *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*.

Radosh's presence on the *The Daily Show*'s staff might be responsible for the most recent Oberlin shout-out in October: "It's like being pulled over by a blind cop," quipped correspondent Larry Wilmore, referencing recent voter identification laws that would disenfranchise eligible voters, many of them African American. "He hears your hip-hop music; how's he supposed to know you're a Jewish kid from Oberlin?"

Another *Daily Show* connection is Ryan Lester '11, a conservatory composition major who wrote the jaunty guest walk-on music themes that play during the show's third act.

With *Partners*, which premiered on CBS in late September, the perennial James Burrows '62—who has directed pilot episodes for over 50 hit television series, including *Cheers, Friends, Frasier, Will & Grace*, and *3rd Rock From The Sun*—can now add another pilot to his already extensive resume.

Over on NBC, Dan Evans Farkas '88 is the music editor for the Broadway musical drama *Smash*, which is halfway through its second season. And the endearing dork Andy Bernard, played by Ed Helms '96, is still around in the ninth season of *The Office*. On ABC's *Suburgatory* you'll find the clueless high school guidance counselor, Mr. Wolfe, played by Rex Lee '90.

And if you're reading about television in any magazine that has the words "New York" on the cover, you're probably reading something by Emily Nussbaum '88: She is the television critic for *The New Yorker* and a contributor to *New York Magazine*. ●

— LIV COMBE '12

ANSWER:
Zagarell held the party to watch the season finale of *Project Runway*, Lifetime network's fashion design competition. SPOILER ALERT: In case you haven't seen it...Dmitry won, much to the delight of this august gathering (who were convinced Fabio would win).

BOOKS IN LIBRARY

Pauline A. Chen's new novel *The Red Chamber* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2012) is about three women in an aristocratic household in 18th-century Beijing, but its roots are in Oberlin and of a more recent vintage. Chen's story, a retelling of the classic Chinese novel *Dream of the Red Chamber*, was inspired by classes she taught on that book during her two stints on the East Asian studies faculty (1996 to 2001 and again as a visiting professor from 2009 to 2011). *The Red Chamber* was the Book-of-the-Month-Club July selection and a Barnes & Noble book-of-the-month pick, and the *Washington Post* named it one of the best audiobooks of 2012. Chen, now an affiliate scholar at Oberlin College who lives in Oberlin, also wrote the young adult novel *Peiling and the Chicken-Fried Christmas*

1933

1941

1942

Ted Schempp's MODERN LIFE

By J Keirn-Swanson • Photos courtesy of the Allen Memorial Art Museum

Ted Schempp had three loves: music, art, and Odile Arnould. His love of music brought him to Oberlin—his mother's alma mater—from Wisconsin in 1922. Though he studied piano at Oberlin, he came to recognize that his limited hand strength would hamper a concert career.

Drawn to French painting since the age of 8 when he asked his mother to take him to a Chicago museum, Schempp pursued a life among artists, painting and traveling throughout pre- and post-war France to collect and deal in modern French art. Back home, Schempp drove the length and breadth of the United States selling paintings out of the back of his car. Over the years, he logged miles in nearly every state, eventually returning to Oberlin. In fact, the Allen Memorial Art Museum was Schempp's very first buyer, and he went on to sell to Oberlin quite a few of the museum's standout pieces.

During one of Schempp's visits to Oberlin, his friend, professor of art Ellen Johnson, sent a student, Robert Light, to help Schempp unload his car. It was the sight of Schempp pulling great art from the back of his car that partly inspired Light to pursue his own very successful career as an art dealer.

Schempp returned to France shortly after WWII and met Odile Arnould, a young woman who had modeled for Henri Matisse, at the Café du Dôme in Montparnasse. She began posing for Schempp and eventually became his wife.

It was Schempp's own experience as a painter

1947

1948

1948

1944

that allowed him to develop close professional relationships with other artists. He could discuss with them the process of creating art in ways other dealers could not. Schempp lived in the same neighborhood as cubism pioneer Georges Braque, and the two became good friends. He was also friends with abstract painter Nicolas de Staël, who lived below Schempp and dedicated artworks to both him and Odile. Schempp would become the first dealer to introduce de Staël to American collectors, including Duncan Phillips. During this time, Schempp also grew to know Pablo Picasso, Matisse, Georges Rouault, and Hans Hartung. He purchased works from important artists at critical junctures in their careers, and his name appears in provenances for major works belonging to museums throughout the United States.

With Odile as Schempp's muse, the couple divided their time between America and France, living in both California and Saint-Tropez. Their homes were filled with art that caught Schempp's eye and paintings he created himself.

And while Schempp, who died in 1988, made his name in art, his love of music clearly never left him. When he made his will, he stipulated that his estate would be fully gifted to Oberlin, with provisions for the college itself as well as for the conservatory and museum. Ted Schempp began his professional and creative journey here in Oberlin, and with the neatness of a perfect circle, it comes to its conclusion here as well. ●

J KEIRN-SWANSON IS THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS AT OBERLIN

1955

These artworks were acquired by the AMAM from Theodore Schempp in the years listed, part of a group of 30 sold or donated by him from 1933-1979.

Top to bottom and left to right:

André Derain (French, 1880–1954)
Bust of a Woman, ca. 1927
Charles F. Olney Fund and Friends of the Museum Fund, 1933.80

Georges Rouault (French, 1871–1958)
Nocturne (Gethsemane), 1915–39
R. T. Miller Jr. Fund, 1941.48

Pierre Auguste Renoir (French, 1841–1919)
Landscape at Cagnes (Renoir's Garden), ca. 1914
A. Augustus Healy Fund, 1942.119

Fernand Léger (French, 1881–1955)
Composition, 1941
R. T. Miller Jr. Fund, 1944.22

Pablo Picasso (Spanish, act. France, 1881–1973)
Glass of Absinthe (Le Verre d'absinthe), 1911
Mrs. F. F. Prentiss Fund, 1947.36

Georges Braque (French, 1882–1963)
Blue Guitar, 1943
R. T. Miller Jr. Fund, 1948.297

Georges-Pierre Seurat (French, 1859–1891)
Family Scene, Evening, ca. 1883
R. T. Miller Jr. Fund, 1948.11

Alexej von Jawlensky (Russian, 1864–1941)
Head of a Woman, ca. 1912
R. T. Miller Jr. Fund, 1955.23

WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATION, WHAT

The plight of public education isn't a new concern in the United States. It isn't even new to the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, which once asked this loaded question in a headline: "Do our public schools educate?" The year was 1909.

More than a century later we asked the question, "What works in education?" to a handful of alumni experts in the field, and we limited their responses to just 350 words. What emerged were not just specific programs and big ideas, but something that transcends them: optimism. The respondents were not blind to the failures of public education, but neither were they blinded *by* them.

What do you think works? Add your thoughts to this discussion at oberlin.edu/oam. →

RKS?

An Alumni Forum

Catherine Snow '66

Patricia Albjerg Graham Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Emily Dodd '07

New York City Public Middle School Science Teacher and Member of the United Federation of Teachers

Meagan Holman '99

Member, Milwaukee Board of School Directors

Lisa Yvette Waller '87

High School Director, the Dalton School, New York City

Tim Knowles '87

Clinical Professor and John Dewey Director of the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute

First, Drop What Doesn't Work

Catherine Snow '66
Patricia Albjerg Graham Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Answering the question, "what works in education?" in 350 words is, of course, a ridiculous task—exceeded in difficulty only by the task of summarizing with such brevity the long list of things that don't work. So the first answer to the question of what works is to get rid of all the stuff that doesn't. For starters: test preparation focused on accountability assessments; pacing guides associated with the overlong and unorganized lists of state content standards for science and social studies; and teachers lecturing students about content the students should be wrestling with on their own, rather than passively receiving.

I work with urban schools that face many challenges. Thus, in thinking about what might work, I am thinking very practically: What would work for the students, the teachers, and the organizational structures I am familiar with? The several practices I would recommend all could be classified under the superordinates "engagement" and "purpose." I would suggest, for example, that any curricular topic, from calculating the area of an oval to causes of the Revolutionary War, is more likely to be learned by students trying to answer an engaging question than by simply processing one more assignment. Starting with an authentic question (ideally an open question with at least two plausible answers) engages students, who stay engaged if they can participate in purposeful reading, discussion, and writing about the question.

Of course, elaborating on those engaging questions and giving students opportunities to discuss them, to read sources that will help them evaluate possible answers, and to write about their reactions, all take time. Thus the need to drop test preparation (ineffective anyway) and prune the lists of topics on the state content standards; otherwise teachers are forced to move through too many topics too quickly, abandoning the hope of discussion, wide-ranging research, or writing.

Is the recommendation for the discussion of deeply engaging questions based on any research or even on evidence of feasibility? Ironically, only in advanced-placement courses do students have time for deep study that integrates reading and writing—courses to which a minority of students have access. Fortunately, programs designed for underprepared urban students do exist, including Reading Apprenticeship (www.wested.org) and Word Generation (http://wg.serpmedia.org).

Measure What Matters

Timothy Knowles '87
Clinical Professor and John Dewey Director of the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute

A few years ago my colleagues at the Urban Education Institute tracked every student in the Chicago Public Schools from ninth grade through college. The results were shocking. Eight percent of Chicago ninth-graders earned a four-year college degree by the time they were 25. Among African American boys, the figure dropped to 3 percent. These figures were nothing short of tragic, and the *Chicago Tribune* crystallized the news with a banner headline.

Yet this story does not end in tragedy. Since then we have been working to change these odds. Our first step was to dig deeper and determine what really matters for high school and college graduation. One critical discovery was that the best predictor of high school graduation isn't race, income, prior test scores, or the neighborhood a student comes from. Rather, it is freshman-year course performance. It turns out that high school success is determined not by a set of immutable characteristics, but by the conditions of schooling that educators create and control.

Empowered by our findings, Chicago responded with interventions for struggling students and real-time reports detailing student-specific and schoolwide trends.

The result of these multilateral actions may prove to be one of the great success stories in urban schooling. Since 2006, the percentage of students on track to graduate has risen from 55 percent to 73 percent. More than 6,000 additional students will graduate from Chicago high schools each year. Evidence suggests these graduates will live longer, earn more in their lifetimes, vote and volunteer more often, be significantly less likely to go to prison, and have children with higher levels of educational attainment. This is not just cause for hope. It is cause for confidence.

Bringing effective practice to scale in the education sector is a complex and sometimes daunting challenge. Yet not long ago the problem of high school dropouts in Chicago seemed intractable. And while that problem is by no means solved, we have made significant progress—evidence of what is possible when parents, practitioners, researchers, and policy makers work in partnership to create reliably excellent urban schools.

Try Montessori Method

Meagan W. Holman '99

Member, Milwaukee Board of School Directors

The innovation that I've championed as a board member for the Milwaukee Public Schools isn't an untested fad, but simply the expansion of a method that's been thoroughly researched and shown to be effective. It boasts 100 years of implementation and 35 years of working for Milwaukee's kids: public Montessori schools. In eight locations across the city, Milwaukee has undertaken a bold experiment that showcases the best of teaching and learning in an urban, high-poverty district—the largest in Wisconsin, educating 81,000 students in 2012-13.

These schools use an educational approach, developed by Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori, characterized by mixed-age classrooms, student-led and project-based exploration of materials, and a focus on the child's learning and emotional development. The majority of Montessori schools in the U.S. are private and tuition-based, while those in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) are free and open to all students, educating 6,000 students every day.

Our evidence that the Montessori Method is effective is clear, ranging from controlled studies of performance among MPS Montessori graduates to the current superior testing results of the students in our public Montessori schools as compared to the district as a whole. Furthermore, the benefit of a Montessori education is seen across the socioeconomic spectrum and in areas that correlate strongly with long-term success such as creativity and executive function.

Montessori also prepares kids for rigorous, project-based learning in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs—a must for the 47 states that have adopted the Common Core standards aiming to get our kids learning and succeeding as global scholars. Montessori schools provide a perfect pathway to STEM, teaching independence, inquisitiveness, and teamwork from the start.

While seeking to scale up the number of classrooms using the Montessori Method in Milwaukee to a point that is sustainable and increases academic achievement citywide, I hope to work with leaders in our city's Montessori community to help other public school districts implement Montessori programs of their own. We need to promote and expand the Montessori Method in public schools because it works.

Find Teachers With the "It" Factor

Emily Dodd '07

New York City Public Middle School Science Teacher and Member of the United Federation of Teachers

On one particularly grueling day during my first year of teaching, I planned an exciting lesson that guided my students through a proof as to whether air is matter. I envisioned a fun, hands-on experiment with students working together to gather evidence to prove their hypotheses. It ended up resembling a competitive middle school yelling match, with balloons and beakers and markers being thrown around the room. I ended the day disheartened and deflated. A kind colleague asked me to talk him through what had happened and offered practical ideas for retrying the experiment. He also told me he believed I had the teaching "it" factor—a testament, he said, to my unwillingness to give up or to blame my students for the failure of my lessons. Although I think the "it" factor varies among teachers, making it through that tough first year and going on to grow confidently into a more experienced teacher takes something special, period.

Four years later, my ability to engage, instruct, and excite my middle school scientists has developed immeasurably, and I am completely in love with my job. In my experience teaching in the Bronx and Brooklyn, the "it" factor is all about believing in and being unconditionally passionate about what you teach and about the children whom you teach. What works for the many exceptional teachers I know is being an expert in their subject areas, and also in the children they teach. Children look to teachers for so much more than information, and while teachers do communicate important content, their instruction ultimately guides students to become more curious learners, more careful and critical thinkers, more skilled communicators, and more compassionate individuals. So many teachers bear more personal and professional responsibility than most will ever give them credit for, care deeply for their students both inside and outside of their classrooms, are the hardest working individuals I know (our jobs never really start at 8 or end at 3), and are deeply committed to the students and subjects they teach.

Value Process as much as Product

Lisa Yvette Waller '87

High School Director, the Dalton School, New York City

The best educational experiences emphasize process along with product. A formative pedagogical approach provides teachers with extensive information about students while encouraging pupils to reflect on their learning and calibrate their approaches to assignments. Through reflective practice, young scholars gain a greater sense of their academic interests and their cognitive profiles. Authentic understanding and genuine rigor attend this approach to education, promoting engagement and allowing students to enjoy reciprocal relationships with their teachers and peers. Ultimately, process places students at the center of the educational experience while seeding agency and an orientation toward lifelong learning.

I have become increasingly committed to promoting balance in the lives of students. The equilibrium I have in mind is multifaceted and concerns both the domains across which young people work and the time devoted to academic pursuits. Students should have opportunities to complement academic course work with substantive exposure to the arts, athletics, and other activities. These undertakings are not ancillary; they encourage the creativity, problem solving, and collaboration that attend truly transformative education.

A rigorous and responsible academic program requires collaboration among faculty such that teachers have an understanding, holistically, of what is being asked of students. Where there is cooperation among teachers across disciplines, an academic program can be demanding while allowing the time for reflection and decompression that an overbearing workload cannot accommodate.

Finally, the educational experience is enhanced when compassion, open-mindedness, and integrity are esteemed along with academic excellence. A truly successful learning community cannot ignore instances of social cruelty, cultural intolerance, or academic dishonesty. When empathy, understanding, and honesty are deliberately and integrally woven into the fabric of the school, many of our greatest ideals are served; diversity is nurtured, service is cultivated, and the richest environment within which to nurture young people emerges. ●

MACARTHUR SPARKS

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WIN A "GENIUS GRANT"

BY LEE CHILCOTE // PHOTO BY TANYA ROSEN-JONES

Each year, the MacArthur Foundation of Chicago awards 20 to 30 "genius grants"—unrestricted fellowships to individuals "who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction." The prize—a $500,000 stipend disbursed over five years—is designed to be "an investment in a person's originality, insight and potential."

Oberlin boasts nine MacArthur recipients, including a 2012 winner (see sidebar), four of whom took part in a panel discussion in September during the launch of the Oberlin Illuminate campaign.

"I was sitting on an airplane in the middle seat in coach, and they were yelling at us to turn off our electronic devices when my phone rang," said Diane Meier '73, recounting her experience of winning the fellowship in 2008. "I didn't recognize the number, but I was curious—it was a Chicago area code, which is where I grew up. I thought I should answer it."

Although Meier could hardly hear over the noise of the plane, she understood the words "MacArthur" and "congratulations." "When I landed, I thought that I'd probably hallucinated the whole thing. But the number was there on my phone as proof."

Meier, who directs the Center for Advanced Palliative Care at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, was being honored for her 20 years of work in encouraging multidisciplinary approaches to relieving pain for people with chronic illnesses. The MacArthur, she said, allowed her to focus exclusively on the area that she felt needed her greatest attention: federal level policy change in support of palliative care.

"I would not have had the confidence … had this bolt from the blue not hit me," she said. "I thought, 'Somebody trusts my judgment, maybe *I* should trust my judgment.'"

Her peers have similar stories, each noting that the fellowship reshaped their careers in a singular major way—by encouraging them to take risks.

Ralf Hotchkiss '69 devoted his 1989 award to supporting his nonprofit organization, Whirlwind Wheelchair International (WWI), which develops wheelchairs for manufacture and use in developing countries. WWI has distributed more than 60,000 wheelchairs to needy individuals across the globe.

"I'd worked on wheelchair design as a hobby, yet I was never able to spend anywhere near the time I wanted to on it," says Hotchkiss, who is paraplegic and uses a wheelchair. With the MacArthur, "I knew that I could dive right in and nobody would call me on it."

Thylias Moss '89, a poet, artist, and professor of English at the University of Michigan, used her 1996 MacArthur Fellowship to share her work more broadly.

"What I loved about the MacArthur was that I was able to get out of the way," she said. "I did not matter anymore, and I became a fantastic collaborator and facilitator. My work belongs to anyone. The grant gave me the freedom to do this."

Richard Lenski '77, a microbial ecologist at Michigan State University, used his 1996 MacArthur to pursue "high-risk projects" he might not have

> "I DID NOT MATTER ANYMORE, AND I BECAME A FANTASTIC COLLABORATOR AND FACILITATOR. **MY WORK BELONGS TO ANYONE.** THE GRANT GAVE ME THE FREEDOM TO DO THIS."

WAITING FOR THE MACARTHUR CALL? OF COURSE YOU ARE. 873 PEOPLE HAVE BECOME MACARTHUR FELLOWS SINCE ITS 1981 INAUGURAL CLASS. ANALYZING THE DATA OF OBERLIN'S WINNERS (IN A NON-GENIUS SORT OF WAY) MIGHT GIVE YOU SOME HOPE THAT THERE'S STILL TIME.

2 alumni were named fellows in 1996.

The decade in which alumni have won the most **1990s**

35 Longest span (in years) between graduation and MacArthur

Oberlin alumni win on average every **3.5** years

11 Shortest span (in years) between graduation and MacArthur

2 geniuses are from the class of 1973 (so far)

18 The average number of years between graduating and winning a MacArthur fellowship

Winningest decade **1970s**

otherwise. "The first thing I did was to take my family on an early sabbatical to Southern France," he said. "While I was there, the award gave me the freedom to go off in new directions."

Lenski is best known for leading a groundbreaking study tracking genetic changes in 12 initially identical populations of E.coli bacteria that started in 1988. He also studied scientific approaches to address the threat of anthrax after September 11.

These MacArthur "geniuses" say their experiences as undergraduates at Oberlin continue to play a role in their lives and careers, and they all cited teachers who inspired them.

"What Oberlin gave me, which continues to be invaluable, was the courage to speak my mind," said Meier. "That was encouraged by all my teachers; it was valued here."

"I remember taking a mathematical biology class with Tom Sherman," added Lenski. "He stood at the chalkboard and derived a mathematical formula. Afterward, instead of talking, he just sat back and smiled at the elegance of it. Scientists look for crisp, valid ways of looking at the world. I remember that made a huge impression on me."

Hotchkiss remembered a physics class with Joe Palmieri that taught him how to apply his theories. "It was a whole different approach," he said. "We learned by doing things."

Moss said that her lowest grade as an Oberlin student, ironically, was in an English class. Her "low grade" (an A-) motivated her to become a professor.

"I knew I needed to concentrate on my weakness—that's why I became a professor of English," said Moss. "The MacArthur people would not have found me if not for that class." ●

[illegible] COTE IS A WRITER LIVING IN CLEVELAND

WELCOME TO THE CLUB, GENIUS: CLAIRE CHASE IS LATEST ALUMNI MACARTHUR WINNER

The same year she graduated from the conservatory, flutist Claire Chase '01 founded the revolutionary International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) in Chicago. A little more than a decade later, she's become a MacArthur Fellow, better known as a MacArthur genius.

As artistic director, Chase is redefining the concert environment and developing new audiences for contemporary classical music. In the changing economic climate, Chase is also intent on opening new avenues of artistic expression, as well as providing innovative music education programs to students in public schools whose music programs have been cut.

Now celebrating its 10th season, ICE tours internationally and is currently the Ensemble in Residence at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. With a flexible roster of 33 instrumentalists, ICE also presents series of concerts in New York, Washington, D.C., and Boston. Over the last decade ICE has premiered over 500 works and released acclaimed albums on the Bridge, Naxos, Tzadik, and New Focus labels. This year they will perform more than 65 concerts in 10 states and five countries.

old school ink

Even in the digital age, student publishers find print makes an impression

MA'AYAN PLAUT '10

By Paris Achenbach '13

Above: The *Oberlin Review* during production.

Jamie Helmsworth '13 adjusts his glasses and omits a needless word from the cover story headline. It's 2 a.m. He and his fellow staffers were supposed to have finished this issue of the *Grape*, "Oberlin's alternative magazine," a couple of nights ago. Now, in their newspaper's windowless office beneath Burton Hall, opposite the offices of the newspaper to which they see themselves as the alternative, they are faced with the prospect of tedious layout touch-ups—not to mention 9:00 classes in the morning. The coffee is cold. The pizza is also cold, but edible. After wolfing it down, they grind onward and finally complete the September 27, 2012, issue in the small hours of the night, exhausted but satisfied.

Helmsworth is one of many students at Oberlin who sacrifice their time and energy (and occasionally their grades and sanity) to do what is decidedly "old-school": produce a publication *in print*. There's still the *Oberlin Review* and, since 1964, the *Plum Creek Review*. Joining them on shelves and racks in hallways and buildings all over campus and town are recent additions *Headwaters*, the *Synapse*, *Comics Collective*, and *Wilder Voice*. Each one offers a unique perspective, but they all have common ambitions: to inform students, staff, and community about campus issues and ideas; to serve as a mode for passionate self-expression; and, nowadays, to show the world that print publications are still relevant in an increasingly digital world.

The *Oberlin Review* began in 1874 as a weekly newsletter. It hasn't stopped printing since. By 1890 it had a financial manager and three students on the editorial board: C.B. Firestone '91, I.C. Chase '91, and Frank Wilder '92. These students were the *Review*: no bylines, no photos, no writers.

"With this issue of the *Review*, the new Editorial Board makes its bow to the public," begins the September 23, 1890, edition. "It is the aim of the editors not merely to 'chronicle the small beer' of college life, but to make the *Review* thoroughly representative...[of] the best thought among the students."

For today's students, a question (other than what is "small beer"?) immediately arises: How did three editors manage to represent the campus without the help of, say, telephones, or the Internet, or texting, or a horde of staff writers? The solution came in the form of a box, posted in Peters Hall, where students or community members could drop off "items of interest." The editors then would collect these notes, synthesize them, and print them in 16 pages of double-columned text. Part of this text appeared as an extended letter, but other parts included bullet-pointed updates in an almost Twitter-like fashion:

The carpet on the Chapel platform is a great improvement. It both adds to the building and to the looks of the faculty feet.

The Senior mustaches disappeared before September 16th, like dew before the morning Sun.

Verdict of the vacation's experience—nowhere do you find better boys than in Oberlin College, and nowhere are the girls equaled.

The *Review*'s archives allow us to read through Oberlin's history and gain a sense of prevailing politics and sentiments, not just from its text, but its context. There is information embedded in its layout and style, headline size, the kinds of paper used, and the many small details that reveal more about a place and a time.

But just past the dawn of the 21st century, the Internet has changed periodical publishing. Newspapers are hemorrhaging jobs, trimming pages, and cutting back on publication days. Venerable magazines have folded. In recent months, *Newsweek* announced a shift from print to entirely online. "Media" today means iPads and Kindles instead of books, Yahoo! News instead of the *New York Times*, blogs instead of long-form journalism.

Despite this change, print publications at Oberlin have remained relatively constant. Certainly, some have come and gone since the late 1800s: The *Naughty-Two Tooter* (1899, 1916-1917, 1927), *Gazoo* (1980-1986), *Below the Belt* (circa 1988-1995), and *Freak 'Zine* (1992) are among those relegated to archives. But the old have been replaced by the new. In the past couple of years alone, magazines devoted to science, environmental studies, and comic strips have emerged, bringing the total number of print publications on cam-

The *Plum Creek Review*

TAGLINE: Oberlin's oldest literary and arts magazine.

LOOK AND FEEL: Sophisticated, arty.

CLAIM TO FAME: Two of its alumni have won Pulitzer Prizes for poetry (Franz Wright '77, in 2004, and 2002 winner Carl Dennis, who transferred).

Three days after Lily's twelfth birthday, Lily did something she never told anyone about. There was a pineapple in the fridge, and she went to grab the carton of milk, pushing the pineapple aside with her palm. The needles pricked her and a baby bullet of blood slithered down her wrist. She watched it ski down the inside of her arm, dispersing to either side at the crease of her elbow.

From the story "Clot" by Charlotte Istel '14, Spring 2012

the plum creek review

pus to 10, with more in the works.

"At this age, we like to express ourselves," says Francis Lawrence '14, a neuroscience major and cofounder and coeditor-in-chief of the *Synapse*, the new science magazine on campus. "Whether it's proving to our parents that we're smart and mature, or whether it's proving that to the world that we're about to enter, we want people to understand us."

A college student's explosive self-expression is a timeless tradition; what's surprising, though, is the Oberlin student body's active *resistance* to digitalization of publications. Only one news outlet, *Fearless and Loathing*, is based purely online, and it has had mixed success.

"I've been very surprised by how slowly online journalism has emerged on this campus," says Jan Cooper, John C. Reid Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Composition and English who has taught in the department for 28 years and is currently in charge of the Practicum in Journalism class. "My students say it's because they really like paper, it feels more permanent—which seems backwards to me, because it's more permanent to have something online."

One reason for print's persistence on campus is the apparent preference for the old-fashioned and antiquated, just as thrift-store flannels prevail over J. Crew sweaters and clunker Schwinns are prized above 24-speed racers. "I think at Oberlin you have such an emphasis on the romantic," says Piper Stull-Lane '13, copy editor of the environmental sci-

The *Synapse*

TAGLINE: Oberlin College's Science Magazine

LOOK AND FEEL: Geeky in a good way.

CLAIM TO FAME: Making science accessible.

"Science has made us gods even before we are worthy of being men."

Jean Rostand, a French biologist, expressed this fear nearly 70 years ago. Today, science has advanced to a state where there is more convergence between scientific research and ethical concerns than ever before. At the core of this convergence between philosophical anxieties, progress, knowledge, creativity, hubris, and imagination, lies neuroscience—the magnum opus of the life sciences....Recent advances in memory research have enabled scientists to target and erase specific memories in live animals. Ironically, if Rostand were still alive today, his fears of scientific progress could soon be targeted and erased, without affecting any of his other mental capabilities.

From the article "500 Milligrams for Arachnophobia, 1000 for the Ex-Wife: The Science of Memory Erasure," by Elie Goldberg '14, February/March 2012

The *Grape*

TAGLINE: Oberlin's alternative student magazine

LOOK AND FEEL: *Village Voice* plus *Mad Magazine* minus spelling and grammar check.

CLAIM TO FAME: Centerfold spreads featuring students often clad only in irony.

In middle school, where childhood is murdered, I tried taking charge of my life. I grabbed it by the reins and when Halloween came along, wore one of those "This is my costume" shirts. I didn't nail it, and I was scorned. Why couldn't I get it right? There seemed to be a small number of acceptable costumes, the majority of which—in middle school—included mutilated rappers and poodle skirt-wearing babes. I don't know what it is about mutilated people that's so scary and clever. I find it cumbersome.

From "Don't Make Me Be a Safety Pin, Dad," by Piper Stull-Lane '13, October 18, 2012

DISORIENTATION

HOW TO STEAL FROM THE DECAFÉ

MAX COHN

ALUMNI TRUSTEE BALLOT

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1 OBERLIN, OH

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

BOARD OF CANVASSERS
OBERLIN COLLEGE
173 W LORAIN ST
OBERLIN OH 44074-9903

VOTE 2013

GENERAL VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

To vote, carefully detach this ballot from the rest of the election insert. Select one (1) candidate and mail the pre-paid ballot postcard. Alumni couples may each cast a vote on the same ballot. Each voter should validate the ballot by providing a full name and class year or an alumni ID (your ID# appears above your name on the magazine's mailing label).

Deadline:
Monday, April 1, 2013

Be sure to print or write legibly or your ballot will be deemed invalid. **Only Oberlin College degree holders are eligible to vote.**

ALUMNUS/A VOTER #1'S CANDIDATE SELECTION:

☐ KAREN BUCK BURGESS '72

☐ JACOB GAYLE '79

NAME _____ CLASS _____

OR

ID # _____

(YOUR ID # APPEARS ABOVE YOUR NAME ON THE MAGAZINE'S MAILING LABEL)

ALUMNUS/A VOTER #2'S CANDIDATE SELECTION:

☐ KAREN BUCK BURGESS '72

☐ JACOB GAYLE '79

NAME _____ CLASS _____

OR

ID # _____

(YOUR ID # APPEARS ABOVE YOUR NAME ON THE MAGAZINE'S MAILING LABEL)

Oberlin College Alumni Trustee Election Information

VOTE 2013

CAST YOUR VOTE!

DEAR ALUMNI,

One of our many privileges as alumni of our wonderful college is our annual election of a trustee. Oberlin's tradition of alumni elections for trustees is 135 years old.

The time has come this year to elect the trustee who will serve starting on July 1, 2013. The job of trustee of Oberlin College is significant and challenging. Even in the easiest of times, the life of the college requires dedicated, hard-working volunteers. Now as we conduct a vital comprehensive campaign, the leadership of the trustees is particularly important. As my predecessor Robert Lemle '75 wrote, "It is important that the college be guided by board members who understand the educational, social, financial, and administrative issues facing American higher education and who are willing to work hard to address them."

This ballot insert provides information about the election process, as well as information on each of the candidates, to help you make your informed choice. For more candidate information and information about the board, see the elections link at **http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/**. Oberlin needs your attention, your interest, and your vote. Please give careful consideration to this information, and thank you for helping elect the strong board your alma mater deserves.

—Clyde S. McGregor '74, Chair, Oberlin Board of Trustees

VOTING PROCEDURE

To vote, detach the perforated ballot from the rest of the insert. Complete the information at the top of the postcard, being sure to write your full name or ID number legibly. (Your ID number appears above your name on the magazine's mailing label.) Failure to do so will invalidate your vote. Vote for the candidate of your choice by placing an "X" in the box next to the candidate's name. Vote for one candidate only. No postage is necessary.

If you are a registered member of OBIEWeb, you may also vote online by visiting **http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/**. Any person upon whom the college has conferred a degree is eligible to participate in this election. Ballots cast by non-eligible individuals will not be counted, and eligible alumni may vote only once, either by mailing in a ballot or voting online.

To be counted, your ballot must be received no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, April 1, 2013**. The Board of Canvassers (the secretary of the college and the director of libraries) certifies the results of the election.

2013 ALUMNI TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCEDURES

The candidate receiving the most votes will be declared elected for a full term beginning July 1, 2013. The candidates have been selected in accordance with Article I, Section 4, of the Bylaws of Oberlin College. The Trustee Search Committee of the Alumni Council certifies that each candidate has agreed to serve if elected. Biographical information and a statement from each candidate appear on the following page. The election results will be announced in the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* and on the Alumni Association's website at http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/.

The candidates, listed alphabetically, are:

KAREN BURGESS '72

JACOB GAYLE '79

trated some Native American folk dances.

From the article "Country Osten," by Eliza Grace Martin '13 Fall 2011

KAREN BUCK BURGESS '72

Karen Burgess has worked for more than 25 years as a public interest lawyer, specializing in financial markets. She served at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in senior legal positions, including associate general counsel and counsel to the chairman. She helped spearhead SEC initiatives fighting penny stock fraud and advocating laws strengthening investor protections. She's currently legal counsel at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, which was chartered by Congress after the Enron collapse. Karen has a long-standing interest in education. After graduating from Oberlin, she taught at a rural school in Kenya, attended an innovative poverty-oriented law school, and worked for the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. She also worked in Hong Kong and Japan for U.S. law firms and for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Thailand. She arrived at Oberlin during the tumult of the Vietnam War, and her education and experiences there profoundly affected her decision to practice public interest law. She lived in Keep Co-op and served on Student Senate and college reform committees. As the Class of 1972 president, she lined up Pete Seeger as graduation speaker—and he sang! After graduation, she worked for a year as assistant to Oberlin President Bob Fuller. Karen is married to journalist John Burgess '72. They have two daughters, Katharine and Sarah.

What strengths would you bring to the Board of Trustees?
Oberlin changed my life. I met my husband at Oberlin. My closest friends are Oberlin classmates. An Oberlin professor was guardian of my children. It's not an Oberlin trait to be self-congratulatory, but here are some reasons why I could make a good trustee: 1) In the current economic environment, preserving the college's resources requires serious attention. My experience in law, finance, and corporate governance gives me special insights into this task. 2) To keep the college competitive, we need to build on Oberlin's strengths of small classes, excellent faculty, and a challenging intellectual environment. My experience in education, especially as a federal grants officer for innovative educational programs, would give me real standing in discussions on the college's future. 3) Oberlin is remote. But its history as a pioneer in higher education for women and people of color takes it beyond its little corner of the world. We can continue these traditions by fostering student diversity and supporting urban and international study programs to push beyond the comfort zone of College and Main. My international experience could help with this. 4) Most of all, it would be an honor to give back to Oberlin, a place that has meant so much to me.

JACOB GAYLE '79

Dr. Jacob Gayle began global citizenship in Buffalo, N.Y., but claims multiple points on the map as "home." Jacob has traversed most of the planet over his lifetime, for the advancement of public health, human rights, and social justice for all. A 1979 graduate of Oberlin with an AB degree in psychobiology, he completed MS, MA, and PhD degrees in preventive medicine, community health education, and international health, respectively, at Ohio State University. His most celebrated lifetime achievements are his 32-year marriage partnership with Joyce Lee '80; his relationships with sons Britt and Calen, and Britt's wife, Sylvia; and the impending grandchild who soon will also receive his love and attention. Jacob serves as vice president of community affairs at Medtronic, Inc., in Minneapolis. He is also executive director of the Medtronic Foundation. Previously, he was a deputy vice president and officer of the Ford Foundation in New York, where, from 2005 to 2010, he led its Global HIV Initiative. Between 1989 and 2005, Jacob was employed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, which included assignments to the Carter Center, the U.S. Agency for International Development, World Bank, and the United Nations, and residential postings in South Africa, Barbados, and Switzerland.

After two years of service on the Oberlin College Presidential Advisory Committee, Jacob began service as an alumni-elected trustee in 2011, to complete the term of the late Dr. Robert Frascino '74.

What strengths would you bring to the Board of Trustees?
While the past year as alumni trustee, and the two years prior as a Presidential Advisory Committee member, has provided an "insider's" view into the intricacies of Oberlin's management and administration, the greatest strengths I bring to the board of trustees of the future extend well before and beyond these privileged opportunities for service. Beyond my own life experiences as student and parent of students, I have been a college administrator, university professor, and donor-funder. Seeing the academic world from all vantage points has provided me with a panoramic perspective that helps when considering complex issues from multi-stakeholder perspectives. My passion is for the celebration of diversity, even while we find solidarity in our commonalities. Oberlin College has historically played a significant role in demonstrating that both aspirations can and must coexist. I believe this must be kept in mind as a guiding value as we move forward in confronting today's issues and preparing for tomorrow's scenarios. Oberlin has a global purpose, and I endeavor to represent and nurture it, both within the board and externally as I engage on its behalf.

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TAGLINE

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From the

1000 for the Ex-Wife: The Science of Memory Erasure,"

by Elie Goldberg '14, February/March 2012

ence magazine *Headwaters* and coeditor-in-chief of the *Grape*. "People love the idea of what's rustic and vintage, and print publications are kind of a nostalgic thing."

Caroline Mills '14, editor-in-chief of *Headwaters*, agrees. "Not that we're so far removed, but I think there is a certain level of nostalgia for print publications," she says. Plus, "There's something really nice about being able to sit down with a piece of printed material and engage, and not be distracted by 10 other things. It's much more satisfying."

Reading articles online can feel like a never-ending process, with dozens—and eventually thousands—of links just a click or two away. "There's a whole sea of knowledge out there on the Internet," says Lawrence. "You can get lost in it. I don't feel the same sense of accomplishment after reading something online as I do when I read through a magazine. I can say, 'I've read this issue of the *Synapse*'—but online, there's no ending point."

It can also be much more stimulating to read something in your hands. "It's such a tactile experience, holding a print publication," says Emily Wilson '13, coeditor-in-chief of the *Plum Creek Review*, Oberlin's longest-standing literary arts magazine (founded in 1964). "It's really sensory. You get to turn the pages, write in the margin, smell the paper....There's value to that."

Rustic, satisfying, tactile—these are all positive things, but not enough to keep an industry alive. Perhaps the biggest distinction between online and print news is the level of detail and overall quality that often goes into print.

"As painstaking and tedious and frustrating as it is when you have 2,000 other things to be doing," says Stull-Lane, "having that print publication to show people—a tangible, real thing—makes you feel really good about the product."

Oberlin's print journalists also worry that online journalism's rush to get the news out the quickest has had a negative impact on the field. "It's exciting to get to invent the new world of journalism," says Douglass Dowty '05, who revamped the *Review* when it nearly went extinct in the early 2000s and now works at the *Post-Standard* in Syracuse, New York. "But I'm worried that we will sacrifice quality in the name of efficiency and speed."

Will Rubenstein '13, coeditor-in-chief of the *Review*, agrees. "Don't get me started about how the quality of journalism has already gone down monumentally," he laments. As for print's future,

Wilder Voice

TAGLINE: Oberlin College's magazine for creative nonfiction and long-form journalism.

LOOK AND FEEL: Thoughtful, in-depth, not in any sort of hurry, *New Yorkery*.

CLAIM TO FAME: Also launched Wilder Press, which published *Philomela*, a collection of work by three Oberlin poets, and *Anthology: 1*, a collection of work first published in *Wilder Voice*.

Germans have a deep-seated obsession with the Old West that traces all the way back to the settlement of the American frontier. In the 1860s, German, or rather, Prussian Mennonites immigrated to take advantage of the Homestead Act and claimed giant swaths of the Great Plains for themselves. What we think of today as the Wild West was indeed made up of cowboys, Indians, and conservative nut jobs in sod houses à la Laura Ingalls Wilder. It was the perfect breeding ground for lawless mayhem....and polka. These immigrants brought two invaluable gifts on their travels to the New World, which immediately spread throughout the Southwest: beer and the accordion. Not only did these contributions influence Mexican culture, but polka's own "oom-paa-paa" beat even infiltrated some Native American folk dances.

From the article "Country Osten," by Eliza Grace Martin '13 Fall 2011

he's not sure there really is one: "I don't think anyone's kidding themselves that in a couple decades they'll be working for a [print] newspaper."

Rubenstein isn't the only one who has been discouraged. "I got this awesome opportunity in high school to meet [Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* columnist] Thomas Friedman, and I asked him about the future of the journalism industry," recalls Mills. "He told me, 'Don't go into journalism.' A famous, really respected journalist said, 'Don't go into journalism.'

"Everyone [there] was like, 'Did he just say that? What will the world come to?'"

But Mills doesn't buy it.

"I do think there's a future for print media," she says. "I mean, you're not going to get rich in the industry, or have media tycoons that sit in the newsroom and chomp on cigars. But I think people love the form of print media enough to keep making it." That might mean a new approach to publishing, such as nonprofit support. "It's not the product that's messed up—it's the business model."

Print advocates say publications leave a snapshot of the moment they were created and of the people who create them, a snapshot that's harder to discern in the digital realm. With the current crop of new print publications, today's Oberlin students are making their own mark, making—and writing—their own history. ●

PARIS ACHENBACH '13, A GEOLOGY MAJOR, WRITES FOR THE *SYNAPSE*, *HEADWATERS*, AND THE OBERLIN BLOGS AND WILL PURSUE A CAREER IN SCIENCE WRITING AFTER GRADUATION.

Oberlin Comics Collective

TAGLINE: Oberlin's comics collective.

LOOK AND FEEL: R. Crumb in college.

CLAIM TO FAME: There's a photo of Alison Bechdel '81 reading *Jerk!* on the collective's Facebook page.

Headwaters

TAGLINE: Oberlin's environmental magazine.

LOOK AND FEEL: Knowledgeable and committed.

CLAIM TO FAME: One of its cofounders, Erika Zarowin '11, was arrested for protesting mountaintop removal mining in West Virginia.

So many of the environmental issues that threaten us today seem to exist on a scale so overwhelming it is often challenging to imagine how individual action can create recognizable impacts. The work that has been done to protect the Black River Watershed is an encouraging example of how community and individual action can be transformative. The impact is hardly small: The Black River watershed spans 466 square miles, an area that is home to nearly 300,000 residents, 43 percent of whom live in Elyria or Lorain. Oberlin's drinking water originates from the west branch of the Black River. Additionally, because the Black River drains to Lake Erie, contamination finds its way into Lake Erie, which provides drinking water, and a place for residents to work, play, fish, and survive. The way people live on the surrounding land directly affects the well being of the Black River and its watershed, and the watershed's health is tied closely with that of its residents.

From the article "Black River in Trouble," by Sarah Sawtelle '12, December 2011

Longing and Belonging

Oberlin alumni opened the door for **Yolanda Walker '09**. Now she wants to keep it open for the person behind her.

BY ERICH BURNETT

On a campus as diverse as Oberlin's, unique back stories are abundant. Yet Yolanda Walker '09 brought with her a tale like few others.

The native of South Africa arrived in Ohio at age 19—not to take her first steps on Oberlin's campus, but to escape the poverty of her childhood by finding work as a nanny.

To Walker, it was the fulfillment of a steadily brewing dream: She would follow in the footsteps of her housekeeper mother while charting a brand new course in America. Up until that point, Walker's family knew little of dreams.

Raised under Apartheid near Cape Town, young Yolanda and her three brothers fought off hunger pangs by day and settled for restless, cold sleep by night. Her family often subsisted on no more than $4 a day, and by age 10 Walker herself took to sweeping up classrooms to ensure there would be bread on the table. Through it all, she was determined to peer beyond the hopelessness.

"I knew I didn't want to be a factory worker, I didn't want to be a housekeeper," Walker says. "I wanted to be more."

After becoming just the second person in her family to finish high school, she found herself on a plane bound for America. She settled in as the nanny for a family near Oberlin, hoping to earn a decent living for perhaps a year before returning to Cape Town. Working 50 hours a week, she also enrolled at Lorain County Community College.

It was there that she met Malcolm Cash '90, an English professor who was taken by Walker's [illegible] and the tinge of Afrikaans in her voice.

"When he heard my accent he said, 'Sit down,' and he started telling me about Oberlin's history," Walker recalls. He spoke of the college's deep roots in fighting racial injustice, and of the campus boycotts of Apartheid he took part in as a student. And he told her she belonged there too.

Walker couldn't see how a struggling immigrant could find a way into one of the nation's most prestigious colleges, but she found faith in Cash's credo: Never say no to yourself.

So she visited campus and soon found that not only had she fallen in love with Oberlin, but Oberlin had fallen in love with her too. With support from a generous financial aid package—including a benefactor she never knew—she left her job and enrolled full time. Throughout four years on campus, she found reassurance from every corner: from the dean who identified her as a leader on day one, to the students who shared her boundless sense of possibility, to the faculty and staff who encouraged her to believe in herself.

And through Oberlin, Walker found her place in the world. She devoted a summer to studying economics in France. She learned to speak Mandarin in China. She spent a winter term living with villagers in Ghana. And she emerged with a degree in economics, a position with one of the world's largest investment firms, and a freshly minted sense of pride.

"I had an education, but not one that came solely from books," she says. "I was much more aware of my role in the world and much more aware of the effects of the things I do. Being at Oberlin gave me that perspective."

And now, only three years removed from her graduation, Walker has found that it's time to give back to the campus that gave so much to her. She has established the Carol P. Walker Endowed Scholarship Fund for Educating Future African Leaders. Named in honor of Walker's mother, the fund will provide scholarships for Oberlin students of African heritage.

"The fund is a meaningful way to give back to Oberlin, but also to the broader African community," Walker says.

"I remember as a student, I opened up the letter that described the person whose money was funding my education, and I remember being really moved by that. Now I envision, five or six years from now, a student opening up that same kind of letter. It feels good knowing that I will be able to do that for others." ●

Support for student scholarships is among the seven goals of the $250 million Oberlin Illuminate campaign. Funding will help sustain both endowed and outright scholarships and will make millions of new dollars available to deserving students each year. Find out more at http://campaign.oberlin.edu.

ERICH BURNETT IS A WRITER AND EDITOR LIVING IN LAKEWOOD, OHIO

ROCK N' ROLL H

Not that he confessed as much to his parents, and not that he was the first person to devise such a plan, but **Billy Cohn '82** came to Oberlin with three distinct goals: to party, play music, and become a rock star. A member of his high school marching band who played bass in local rock groups, Cohn, an ebullient, outgoing Texas teenager, arrived at Oberlin with a good head start on that rock star goal. He had already strutted his stuff as a swinging horn player with Ezra Charles, one of the hottest club bands in Houston. ➜

EART

Story by **William Michael Smith** PHOTO BY **Sergio Santos**

But less than a decade after graduating from Oberlin, Cohn had achieved star status of an entirely different sort. And by May of 2004, the national medical community was hailing him as the Thomas Edison of heart surgery.

A highest-order renaissance man, Cohn today not only performs cardiac surgery and sits on the boards of several medical technology companies, but he plays trombone in three bands. When not traveling for speeches or courses or professorships, he does fiendishly clever magic tricks. He also helps his five kids with math homework, science problems, and relationship issues, and, often in the workshop behind his home, invents things. Lots of things.

Cohn's smallish office in the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston looks like a college dorm room on laundry day. It gives clutter a new meaning. Office assistant Sharon Williams says she used to try to tidy up, but finally gave up. "What's the use, he's always tinkering with things."

The walls are covered with mounted newspaper and magazine articles about Cohn from the *New Yorker, Boston Globe, Popular Mechanics, Houston Chronicle*, and *Houston Press*. Dotting the space are dramatic photos of masked men and women in blue scrubs crowding around an operating theater table. One photo is of world-renown cardiac surgeon and medical innovator Michael DeBakey, with "To my friend Billy C." above the signature. Two joined Dell flat screens sit on his desk. Two open laptops and two more computer screens, plus a video player and screen, rest on his bookcase. Three CPU towers vie for space under the desk amid a tangle of wires and cords. The CIA couldn't be more wired or complicated.

Crammed at an angle into a lower shelf on his bookcase are hardback copies of *Atlas For Surgical Anatomy* and *Pumps and Pipes*, which rest atop a commemorative edition of The Band's swan song concert and movie, *The Last Waltz*.

KEEPING THE BEAT

Cohn's Cardiac Stabilizer, originally fashioned from spoons in Cohn's home workshop, allows surgeons to perform bypass surgery on a beating heart.

The bemused, slightly confused faces of U2 singer Bono and Houston mega-socialite Lynn Wyatt are locked on Cohn in an 8-by-10" frame; they're trying to spot his sleight of hand during a magic trick at a party. The photograph has a certain tension.

And then there are the official plaques recognizing Cohn's inventions: the biological fluid warmer; the catheter apparatus and methodology for generating a fistula on-demand between closely associated blood vessels at a prechosen anatomic site in-vivo; the surgical retractor and method of use; the Cohn Cardiac Stabilizer that keeps the heart beating during a bypass operation, reducing the risk of neurological damage or death. Cohn holds or shares more than 60 patents.

There's also a plaque declaring the affable surgeon a "member in good standing" with the International Brotherhood of Magicians. And there's a doctoral degree from the Baylor College of Medicine dated May 23, 1986; a certificate declaring him an adjunct professor at Nanjing Medical University; and an honorary doctorate from Oberlin inscribed with "William E. Cohn, Class of '82: Celebrated cardiac surgeon, renowned researcher, musician, maverick, inventor of the Cohn Cardiac Stabilizer, inspired inventor of improved techniques for coronary bypass surgery."

A full day of surgery has made Cohn an hour and half late to our interview. He is obviously weary; he played a gig the night before with bluesman Little Joe Washington, performed heart surgery this morning, and oversaw the beginning of a critical FDA animal test of a new heart technology this afternoon. Nevertheless, Cohn grins and grabs

some old spoons that lean against a wall near his desk. They've been sawed and cut and reshaped.

"They don't look like much but, yeah, these are what I'm famous for," he laughs. The spoons are the prototype of the Cohn Stabilizer that he invented in his workshop from a set of soup spoons he bought at Stop & Shop while a resident surgeon in Boston. These days, his ideas usually lead him to a plumbing or hardware store.

Piled on top of the inventor's kits, heart mock-ups, plastic tubes, magazines, computer program discs, and random ephemera on Cohn's desk are seven sheets of white paper with 15 items in 20-point bold print: tomorrow night's set list for his band, ChangoMan, at the Continental Club.

Billy Cohn didn't give college much thought until late in the game, eventually applying to Harvard, Princeton, and Yale. Princeton wait-listed him. Harvard and Yale said no.

His mom, an Ohioan, suggested he visit Oberlin. Cohn hadn't heard of the town nor the school, but thought, "why not?"

"In high school, I was perceived as a bit screwy, someone who would try stuff other people would never think of doing. I was kind of an outlier," Cohn recalls. "But the second I got to Oberlin, I loved it. Everybody was an oddball doing their own thing. I knew I could go there and not stand out. And even better, they accepted me. I didn't have the highest GPA, but I had great SATs, and I think that's what they looked at.

"Oberlin also appealed to me because it has such a highly rated music conservatory, right there with Juilliard and Eastman, and I wanted to be a rock star, so Oberlin seemed perfect. What could go wrong?"

Looking back, Cohn admits, "I was only 17 and probably one of the least mature people in my freshman class.

"Coming from an environment like Memorial High School, I suddenly found myself surrounded by all of these individualists who were doing their own thing. I'd always been a creative person; I liked art, I liked music. I did all the art for the school newspaper and I worked part time at a T-shirt printing shop. I didn't exactly fit the Texas mold. Then suddenly I'm dropped in Ohio right in the middle of a whole bunch of people who are just as weird as I am. I loved it almost immediately.

"I quickly saw I didn't have to live up to anyone's expectations, that I didn't have to follow some already-in-place plan for my life. No one told you that; they were too busy doing their own thing. It was your job to figure out your thing. That was the big mental sea-change I experienced there: do what you really want to do."

So what happened at Oberlin to derail Cohn's dream of rock stardom?

"I arrived at Oberlin just as the whole punk rock thing from the U.K. hit the States, and it became huge overnight with people our age. So my freshman year I became this avid punk rocker, and I thought I was so bad.

"I was really bad about deadlines, so I started taking science courses, trying to avoid classes that were going to have huge live-or-die term papers with firm deadlines," Cohn confesses sheepishly. "By the time I had to declare my major in my junior year, I had all these hours in chemistry and biology and physics, so I took the science route."

Despite the fact that he was playing bass in several punk bands (and claims that his place was Party Central: "all my friends and their bands would come hang out and we'd play all weekend"), Cohn says he started to get serious about his future.

"My parents never pushed me in any direction," says Cohn, "but my mom would clip out these articles from the *Houston Chronicle* about medical stuff that was going on in Houston, the first transplant, open heart surgery, inventions, all that stuff, and she'd put them next to my cereal bowl. I guess some of it stuck."

> "Somewhere along the way I've become a magnet for other outliers, these smart young people who want to do **something outside the box.**"

He applied to medical school and was accepted at the prestigious Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"My plan was to become a plastic surgeon," he says. "I was going to make all this money, but the work wasn't going to be all that serious; nobody was going to die. I was going to make people pretty and get paid well."

It didn't exactly turn out that way. One of only 35 students admitted to the program, Cohn found his plastic surgery courses rather dull. It was the heart surgery classes that grabbed his attention.

"They select 35 surgeons to come into the program. After three years, it winnows down to 10. A lot of people thought I was faking my interest in heart surgery just so Dr. DeBakey, who was partial to up-and-coming heart surgeons, wouldn't boot me out of the program."

By the fifth and final year, only seven of the original 35 students were left—Cohn among them. He had made his bones, at least on the first rung of the heart surgeon hierarchy.

But in spite of being in awe of the talent and names he was surrounded by, he recalls having innovative ideas after his first year of medical school.

"I would see a procedure, and I'd think, 'Why are we doing it that way?' Or I'd see some device that we used in a procedure and think, 'It would work better if it was like this.' But at first I kept that stuff to myself. I thought maybe I didn't know enough about why something was the way it was."

From 1986 through 1991, Cohn immersed himself in general surgical residency training at Baylor. He then became one of a handful of physicians chosen for heart surgery training directly under DeBakey. Aside from his surgical work, Cohn liked to tinker and think, and it wasn't long before his creative urges found an outlet. He filed for his first patent in September 1990, and in April 1992 was granted a U.S. patent for his biological fluid warmer. It was the first of many medical technology problems he would solve.

He also became DeBakey's lead surgical resident.

After his training at Baylor, Cohn added another (non-required) year of training at Harvard before accepting a position on the Harvard faculty, which he held for a decade. There, he would go on to set the world of cardiac surgery abuzz and make his star.

In 1998, Cohn revealed his biggest innovation yet, the Cohn Cardiac Stabilizer (made from the spoons in his office). The invention allowed surgeons to perform bypass surgery on a beating heart. When he was asked to join the Texas Heart Institute, despite having his parents and other family in Boston, it was an offer he couldn't resist.

"The 800-pound gorilla of medi-

cal innovation and invention was Michael DeBakey," Cohn says. "Just to be on his radar was an honor. To be asked to come work with him at the Texas Heart Institute is the chance of a lifetime that every innovative heart surgeon dreams of."

Cohn moved to Houston and fell into the realm of three of the world's most noted heart surgeons: DeBakey, Denton Cooley, and Bud Frazier, who has done more heart transplants than anyone in the world. And the rest is history—still in the making.

ITO

On March 23, 2011, Cohn, along with his boss/partner/mentor Bud Frazier and the Texas Heart Institute, were riding high on their latest, widely trumpeted scientific achievement: a fully mechanical heart. Implanted in a comatose, terminally ill patient with a life expectancy of three to four days, the device revived the patient. He came out of his terminal coma and lived four more months before dying from the rare incurable disease he had. The device and procedure were hailed as a monumental breakthrough in cardiac surgery.

Yet, less than two years later, Cohn virtually dismisses it.

"Yes, it proved we could keep someone alive on a mechanical heart substitute. That's a breakthrough. But there were also problems with that generation of devices, and many of them have to do with quality of life. So, okay, you're alive, and you've got this machine inside that keeps you alive. But this machine requires a tube that comes out through your skin. It requires an external battery to keep it working, so you have an electrical wire that goes through your skin to the external power source and has to be with you 24/7. So there's all this baggage that went with that device. Frankly, the man we put the first one in asked us several times to let him die. It worked, but it was far from perfect."

Cohn has started clinical trials for a new, more compact, more elegant device he refers to as the Daniel Timms model (named after the Australian designer of the device, who, upon Cohn's counsel and urging, has now relocated from Brisbane to the Texas Heart Institute). An amazing conceptual idea and piece of technology and medical science, the new device has only one moving part. Its mechanics, physics, and performance are mind-boggling. Cohn and his team installed one of the devices in a young cow. Two days later, the animal was in the laboratory eating hay and walking on a treadmill. So far, so good.

"Here is the picture. There are about two million people in the country today who would benefit from a heart transplant," Cohn says. "But only 2,000 human hearts suitable for a transplant become available each year. If you need a heart transplant, waiting for a matching human heart to save you is equivalent to someone deeply in debt counting on winning the lottery to cure their financial problems. The odds are very, very long. The mechanical heart will be a game changer."

The mechanical heart is just one of six inventions and procedures on which Cohn is overseeing FDA trials as principal surgeon.

"I can't go into the details yet, but we're working on a new heart assist pump that is going to revolutionize that technology," says Cohn, adding that such a pump is what is keeping former Vice President Dick Cheney alive.

But what excites Cohn the most has nothing to do with repairing hearts, per se. "We've known for a long time that one of the first things to look for in people who experience sudden rapid weight loss is a blocked celiac artery, which, simply put, serves most of the major digestive organs.

"It seems obvious now, but at some point we went, 'Voila! What if we could artificially restrict the celiac artery?' If we can perfect this technology and procedure, imagine what we can do for patients with morbid obesity, which is an epidemic in this country. I'm really excited about this. This will be relatively inexpensive, and it's going to help a lot of people."

Another way Cohn helps people is as a mentor, and he traces his willingness to serve in that function back to his own "outlier" status.

"Add to that I was part of the first class of punk rockers to come into the medical schools. I was the first medical student ever at Baylor with a two-tone hairdo. Well, somewhere along the way I've become a magnet for all these other outliers, these smart young people who want to do something outside the box, and I love that. They come to us, I let them spend time in my service, tell me their ideas, and I try to steer them in the direction they need to go."

Cohn strides backstage at the Continental Club at 9 p.m., trombone case in hand. He's dressed in jeans, a tail-out white dress shirt, and the same alligator boots he wore in the operating room the day before—the same alligator boots he wore two nights earlier when he played with Little Joe Washington at a club called Boondocks. He's ready to rock.

Sound check complete, Cohn and the other members of ChangoMan, all young Latino hipsters, tear into a wicked original tune with a Latin dance beat called "Devil's Cumbia." Cohn is the only horn player in ChangoMan, and he bleats aggressive fiery trombone into the hot mix. The dancers hit the floor, and it's on. The band burns through an hour and a half of mostly originals and some Latinized versions of Beatles songs. The crowd is loving it.

Afterwards, Cohn is greeting friends and well-wishers when a member of the club's management approaches.

"Billy, Little Joe is in the office, and he looks real bad. He hasn't eaten in a couple of days. You want to take a look at him?"

Cohn enters the office and closes the door. After five minutes, he comes out and says, "He says he feels really bad. I may call an ambulance and have him taken to Ben Taub [hospital]."

Cohn gets a glass of water from the bar, reenters the office, and evaluates the diminutive, frail blues man who has lived most of his chaotic adult life on the streets. The doctor, who has surgery scheduled for the next morning, finally coaxes the old man into his blue Audi and drives off into the night.

Destination? Kentucky Fried Chicken, Washington's favorite meal. And then Cohn drove him home into the Third Ward. How's that for a house call?

Just all in a day's work for a rock star and the Thomas Edison of heart surgery. ●

WILLIAM MICHAEL SMITH LIVES IN HOUSTON AND IS ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF *TEXAS MUSIC* MAGAZINE. HE HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY FOR *HOUSTON PRESS* AND *NO DEPRESSION*

TO COMMENT ON THIS STORY, VISIT OBERLIN EDU/OAM

KOH EDUCATION AT OBERLIN

Violinist Jennifer Koh '97 performed Lutoslawski's "Chain 2" with the Oberlin Orchestra in September in Finney Chapel. Koh's 2012–13 season highlights include a tour as the solo violin role of Einstein in the historic restaging of Philip Glass' *Einstein on the Beach*—the first time a female violinist has performed in that role. Koh recently released *Bach & Beyond Part 1*, the first of a three-CD series based on her "Bach & Beyond" recital series.

—YVONNE GAY FOWLER

1950s

1951 |

Patricia Mink Balsamo is the lead author of a college text published in spring 2012. *Fashion Marketing: A Global Perspective* (Fairchild Books Division of Bloomsbury Press) is intended for students interested in careers in fashion merchandising and other design-related careers. It is the first comprehensive fashion marketing text applying marketing theory, principles, and practices to the fashion field.

1952 |

Tom Bosworth was awarded the Medal of Honor this year from the Northwest & Pacific Region of the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor the organization presents to one recipient annually.

1955 |

Louis Malucci and his wife, Dorelle (Flavin) 56, journeyed to San Francisco to perform the Berlioz Requiem at Davies Hall with one of his choral groups, the Finger Lakes Choral Festival, from the Rochester, N.Y. area. The performance became a joint chorus of 240, comprising the San Francisco Lyric Chorus accompanied by the 100 members of the Redwood Symphony.

1957 |

Marilyn Bos played in three professional orchestras (New Orleans, Indianapolis, and Buffalo) before accepting a position at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she taught for 30 years. Now retired, she still teaches violin in her home. Marilyn has written three instructional manuals for fiddle playing and will soon publish her first mystery novel, set in 1950, about a murder on a women's professional baseball team. She'd love to hear from other Obies.
[E]: marilynjbos@gmail.com ■ | **Charlotte Gosselink** attended a luncheon at the Crosslands Retirement Community in Kennett Square, Pa., with several alumni from Kendal and Crosslands. The group discussed what they felt was the most important thing they learned at Oberlin. Pictured are (left to right): Marian Fuson '42, Carl Schneider '39, Jean Barker '57, Kay Mott '42, Char Gosselink '57/'60, Elly Lewis '47, Joan Warner '47, Dorothy Schneider '39, Dave Elder '55, B.J. Elder '54, Trudy Huntington '47, Virginia Sherrell '49, Cecilia Sibinga '54, Chuck Gosselink '57/'60, and Brigitte Alexander '51.

Send your news for class notes to alum.mag@oberlin.edu, with "class note" in the subject line; obituaries of Oberlin alumni should be sent to the same address, with "Obituaries" in the subject line.

Charlotte Gosselink '57

1960s

1960 |

Leon Lewis is the editor of a new book, *Critical Insights: Sherman Alexie* (Appalachian State University, 2012), a collection of essays about the Native American poet, writer, and filmmaker.

1962 |

Dieter Knecht writes, "Our 50th reunion reminded me of my friend and mentor, Walter 'Andy' Anderson '37. In 1946 he became the first African American chairman of the music department at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where my family lived. He went on to head the National Endowment for the Arts Music Committee in the 1970s. I ran into him at a music festival in the mid-'70s and again in 1987, when I was registering for our 25th reunion and Andy was there for his 50th."

1963 |

Sydney Reid-Hedge was honored October 19 at the Each Moment Matters luncheon at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, hosted by Presbyterian Communities and Services Foundation and benefiting Faith Presbyterian Hospice. The award recognizes individuals who exemplify compassion, faith, courage, and integrity in everyday life.

Some class notes appear in longer form online. To read those or post your own, log on to www.oberlin.edu/alumni. Follow the "Keep Up With Obies" link [illegible]

BALTIMORE BOOKENDS

It wasn't until after the final notes of the closing concert of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Academy that clarinetist Sheila Meyers '52 learned that her ensemble instructor, Fei Xie '08, was also an Obie, and that the two of them, with 52 years between them, were the academy's oldest and youngest participants, "the bookends of the program," as Meyers says.

The academy allows amateur classical musicians of all talent levels to learn from and play side-by-side with members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO). The program includes classes on breathing techniques, lectures on the neurobiology of music, ensemble classes, and individual lessons. At the end of a frenzied week, the students play a concert with the professionals. The BSO is the only orchestra in the country with a weeklong pro-am concert program like this, making it a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all 103 participants.

Meyers graduated from the conservatory in 1952 with a degree in music education and a minor in clarinet, but she hadn't played the clarinet for a half-century. Instead, she got married, had children, taught in public schools, and was active in community theater. A few years ago, Jeff Schumer '68, a French horn player who happens to be Meyers' financial broker, suggested she dust off her clarinet and come with him to a Chesapeake Community Orchestra rehearsal. Today, she plays in her community orchestra, the Social Security Administration Band, and with various ensembles.

Fei Xie, a bassoonist from a musical family in China, followed his Oberlin degree with a master's degree in music at Rice University. He joined the BSO in 2008 and in September of this year became its principal bassoonist.

During the BSO Academy, Meyers participated in one of the two large orchestras and a quintet coached by Xie. "I felt like I was 14 and starting all over again," she says. For the final performance, the participants played alongside the professional orchestra members. "They are so excellent," says Meyers, who is looking forward to being part of next year's academy. "It is such a special feeling, sitting next to, and hearing, the professionals play." — KEVIN OWENS '13

1965 |

William Green was named vice president of strategy and development at the Moral Courage Project at the New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. The project is headed by Muslim reformer and international human rights activist Irshad Manji. William works with young people, both Muslim and non-Muslim, and civic groups in Cleveland; Lehigh Valley, Pa.; Santa Fe, N.M.; Atlanta; and Los Angeles. He previously served as director of stewardship and giving at the United Church of Christ National Office.

1966 |

Almost 50 years after meeting in Dascomb's dining hall and one previous marriage each, **Charles Heck** and **Wendy Solmssen Sommer** were married October 23, 2011, in New York City. Marcia Aronoff '65, a friend of the bride and groom, officiated. The musicians were violists **William Foster** and Daniel Foster '91. Other family and friends present were **Joseph Leive**; **Polly Kaesemeyer Presler**; Nancy Kendall Foster and Franklin Presler, both '65; and Teresa Solmssen Shartar '74. The couple resides in Washington, D.C., where Wendy is

Bruce Nygren '69

director of the Environmental Defense Fund's Strategic Partners program and Charles is a fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

1968 |

Edna Chu Chun is the coauthor of two books published this year: *Diverse Administrators in Peril: The New Indentured Class in Higher Education* (Paradigm, 2012) and *Creating a Tipping Point: Strategic HR in Higher Education* (Wiley, 2012).

1969 |

Bruce Nygren writes, "After a 26-year hiatus, Elly and I remarried in 2009 to the delight of our daughter, Manora. Eli, my son from my second marriage, was my best man. We live in both Boulder and Crestone, Colo., where I have a business, Blue Earth Design. Elly and I present workshops in nondual insight (*www.SpaciousPresence.org*) — stemming from our years of meditation and deep inner inquiry. We welcome both old and potential friends in Colorado!"

1970s

1971 |

Larry Abraham was promoted from associate dean to interim dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He writes, "The School of Undergraduate Studies is charged with oversight of the undergraduate core curriculum and is actively engaged in transforming

And once upon a time, you called Oberlin home.

For Gail Griffith Lyons '63, Oberlin was a natural choice of schools. "I wanted a fine liberal arts college, and Oberlin has so much going on. It's the perfect place to learn." Now approaching her 50th reunion, Gail and her husband's thoughts return to her alma mater.

Oberlin's gift planning officers worked with Gail and Harley to set up a charitable remainder trust (CRT) with their donation to Oberlin in what Gail calls a win-win. By donating one of the homes they owned to Oberlin, the Lyonses were able to make a significant gift, while gaining several benefits for themselves, including a substantial income tax charitable deduction.

A CRT is a trust in which you make an irrevocable gift to Oberlin College of cash, property, stocks, or other securities, and Oberlin guarantees you an income for life. You avoid costly capital gains taxes, lower your estate tax and settlement costs, and diversify your income stream while targeting your gift funds to Oberlin toward your charitable priorities.

The Lyonses avoid substantial estate tax burdens and are assured that their income won't suffer. They also know that Oberlin and the programs they support will benefit from their generosity.

For helpful brochures or more information on how you can help shape the journeys of future generations of Oberlin students, please call us at **440.775.8599** or email us at **gift.planning@oberlin.edu**

OBERLIN ILLUMINATE

Oberlin Alumni make a difference. Participate. Donate. Connect.

NEW NAMES FOR HALL OF FAME

The Department of Athletics kicked off its Homecoming Weekend by inducting four alumni and a team into the John W. Heisman Club Hall of Fame. The induction class of 2012 consists of two-time Academic All-American and two-time All-NCAC First-Team selection soccer standout David Craig '87; four-time All-NCAC selection lacrosse player Ryan Kelley '96; two-time NCAA Champion in the 200-yard butterfly and four-time NCAA All-American John Limouze '01, one of the greatest swimmers in school history; four-year NCAA Academic All-American Celestine Mercer '02, the first female swimmer in school history to earn All-America honors, achieving the feat in both the 100-yard backstroke and 50-yard free; and the 1921 football team, best remembered for being the last team from the state of Ohio to beat Ohio State University. For more information, please visit oberlin.edu/oam.

the core curriculum. I see this as an opportunity to infuse elements of an Oberlin-style approach to a broad and multidisciplinary undergraduate education into the curriculum of a large public research university." ■ | **Willem Brakel** was named adjunct professor of environmental science at American University in Washington, D.C. He says, "Following my retirement from the Senior Foreign Service in 2011, I am looking forward to returning to an academic setting that will allow me to merge my interests in environmental science, foreign policy, and teaching." ■ | **Daniel J. Monti Jr.** has written *Engaging Strangers: Civil Rites, Civic Capitalism and Public Order in Boston* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2012).

1973 |

In late August, classmates **Lucy Marks** and **Barbara Martin** and their mothers, Paulina Marks '45 and Ruth Martin '42, enjoyed a mini-reunion in Nyack, N.Y. Pictured are (left to right) Barbara, Ruth, Paulina, and Lucy.

1974 |

Mark Farmer, a minister at the First Baptist Church in Newark, Ohio, told a local newspaper in August he would "be preaching in sandals, just like Jesus did." Mark donned the earthy footwear following foot surgery. While growing up in Ohio and Indiana, Mark had a varied church background that included Methodist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian denominations.

1975 |

Leo S. Fisher, managing shareholder at Bean, Kinney & Korman in Arlington, Va., was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America 2013 in the area of commercial litigation.

1977 |

David W. Shwalb, professor of psychology at Southern Utah University, is coeditor of *Fathers in Cultural Context* (Routledge Academic, 2012). This new volume reviews the latest research on fathering from every continent, from cultures representing more than 50 percent of the world's population.

1978 |

Jon Jang was invited to the Confucius Institute at the University of Michigan for a performance of his work, *Portrait of Sun Yat-sen*, by the jazz and classical music faculty. A visiting professor at Michigan, Jon also made two presentations for classes in ethnomusicology, jazz composition, and history. *Portrait of Sun Yat-sen* was commissioned by the Chinese Cultural Center in San Francisco to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Xinhai Revolution in 1911.

1979 |

Adam Moss, editor-in-chief of *New York* magazine, received the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism in October from the Missouri School of Journalism. The award, considered

Larry Abraham '71

Lucy Marks '73

Mary Beth Dowd Trubitt '81

one of journalism's most prestigious, honors career-long outstanding service to journalism. During Adam's tenure, *New York* and Nymag.com won 22 National Magazine Awards. In 2009, *Advertising Age* named Nymag.com Magazine Website of the Year, and in 2007 named Adam Editor of the Year, an honor he also won in 2001 as editor of the *New York Times Magazine*.

1980s

1981 |

Paul Aronowitz is the author of *Hospital Images: A Clinical Atlas* (John Wiley & Sons, 2012), a new book that features more than 60 medical case studies illustrated with CT scans, X-rays, electrocardiograms, microscope slides, and other medical picture-taking. ■ | Two alumni and a current student participated in an archeological dig during an Arkansas Archeological Society/Survey Training Program in June. Pictured are (left to right) **Mary Beth Dowd Trubitt**, Samantha Mater '15, and Lydia Rees '00 at Historic Washington State Park in Hempstead County, Ark. The group was investigating the site of a 19th-century town as part of a project directed by Lydia's husband, Jamie Brandon.

Toju Omatete '90

Katie Beilfuss '93

1982 |

Louis Green, president and CEO of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council, was selected to receive the Eleanor Josaitis Unsung Hero Award. Louis, who grew up on the streets of south central Los Angeles, escaped the tough circumstances of his life when he accepted a full scholarship to Oberlin. He was nominated for the award in part because he has "helped change lives by getting corporations and minority business leaders throughout the state to work together."

1984 |

Michael Freire writes, "I recently changed jobs and have moved to Johnson & Johnson from Kraft Foods. I continue to live in Zurich and would be delighted to hear from any Obies in the area. My wife and I also recently bought an apartment in Vilnius; any Obies in Lithuania are more than welcome to look me up there as well!"

1988 |

Bernadette Barton's book, *Pray the Gay Away: The Extraordinary Lives of Bible Belt Gays*, was published in October (NYU Press). It explores the impact of conservative Christian ideology and practices on the lives of lesbians and gay men living in the Bible

Bernadette Barton '88

Jenifer Grady '91

Belt. Bernadette is professor of sociology and women's studies at Morehead State University and is in a 15-year partnership with Anna Blanton. She credits Charles Combs '87 with the seed idea for the book.

1990s

1990 |

Will Lewis was appointed CEO of New Jersey-based Insmed. Will, an Oberlin trustee, previously served as the CFO of Aegerion Pharmaceuticals, where he reoriented the company's strategy to focus on orphan disease indications and drove one of the best-performing IPOs of 2010. Will joins Insmed at a pivotal time, with reporting expected in 2013 on clinical results from studies for a new drug that treats serious chronic lung infections. ■ | **Toju Omatete** writes, "Elya and I have been living (and loving!) the Santa Cruz life for the last two years—three years for her. Alas, all good things come to an end (especially when subject to the dictates of our current job market), and we'll be moving over the mountains into the Bay Area proper. At least I get to attend more San Fran alumni events soon." Toju is also working on and enjoying conversational Russian.

1991 |

Jenifer Grady is the new executive director of Tenn-Share, a resource-sharing consortium for all types of Tennessee libraries and information agencies. She and her daughter, Gwyn, are enjoying life in Nashville.

Gretchen Primack '92

1992 |

Gretchen Primack coauthored *The Lucky Ones: My Passionate Fight for Farm Animals* (Penguin Avery 2012). The memoir tells the story of Jenny Brown, a cancer survivor who left the film and TV industry to found the Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary.

■ | **Erec Stebbins** writes, "My day job is as an associate professor studying bacterial pathogens at the Rockefeller University, but in true ADHD Obie fashion, I've also now written a book. The story is a timely one, combining some fun and action in the thriller format with some pretty hot-button cultural issues like terrorism and Islamophobia." *The Ragnarök Conspiracy* was released in October. *[W]: http://www.erecstebbins.com*

1993 |

Katie Beilfuss, outreach programs director for the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA), traveled to Bucharest, Romania, in July to accept the 2012 Wetland Conservation Award for Education from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on behalf of her organization. WWA is the first U.S.-based entity to receive this prestigious award, joining previous laureates from 15 other countries including Thailand, Australia, Japan, Kenya, China, Peru, and Canada. ■ | **Nikki Brown**, associate professor of history, was awarded early tenure at the University of New Orleans in the spring. In October, Nikki had her first international photography exhibition in Innsbruck and Graz: *After Katrina: A Visual History of African American Men in New Orleans, 2010 to 2012*, a collection of 25 photographs.
[W]: www.nikkibrownphotos.com

DREAM GIRL

Laurie Rubin '01 performed works from her recent album and read from her memoir, both titled *Do You Dream in Color? Insights From a Girl Without Sight* at the Kennedy Center in D.C. on October 22. Rubin is a mezzo-soprano classical singer, jewelry designer, and author who has performed at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall in London, the Parcol Auditorium della Musica in Rome, and Lincoln Center. Her memoir, targeted at young adult readers, reflects on her life as an international opera singer who happens to be blind.

■ | **Kerry Reichs** published her third novel, *What You Wish For* (HarperCollins, 2012); "a bittersweet, funny, and unforgettable tale of five 'modern' families at a crossroads, each following a different path to happiness." *Publishers Weekly* has praised her "gentle humor and insight." Spending time between Washington, D.C., and Charleston, S.C., Kerry would love to hear from you or visit your book club. *[W]: www.kerryreichs.com*

1994 |

David Ebenbach's second book of short stories, *Into the Wilderness*, winner of the Washington Writers' Publishing House Prize, is now in print. *Washington City Paper* said the collection "focuses on the most important human relations, the ones central to our conceptions of who we are and what life is about. Ebenbach does this all while playing to his strength: using the small, the ordinary, the everyday to give little glimmering glimpses of the enormous, the extraordinary, and the startlingly true." ■ | **William Scher** writes, "In July, I had an op-ed published in the *New York Times* titled, "How Liberals Win," arguing that President Obama's strategy of bargaining with corporate interests follows in the footsteps of liberal icons FDR and LBJ. Earlier in the year, I celebrated the birth of Simone Vrai with my wife, Gina-Louise Sciarra, and our first child, Alazne Pax."

1995 |

The new film from journalist and screenwriter **Mark Boal**, *Zero Dark Thirty*, about the hunt for Osama bin Laden, was set for release in December. Mark won Academy Awards as screenwriter and producer for 2009's *The Hurt Locker*. ■ | **David Getsy**, the Goldabelle McComb Finn Distinguished Professor of Art History at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has published his fifth book: *Scott Burton: Collected Writings on Art and Performance, 1965-1975*. Among other writings, this edited collection includes the previously unpublished full text of the unconventional performance lecture Burton gave at Oberlin in 1973. *[W]: http://www.soberscovepress.com/books/scott-burton*

1996 |

Walker Lewis directed two opera projects in New York City: Monteverdi's *Il Ballo delle Ingrate* with early music group Musica Nuova at Poisson Rouge; *Water Music*, an opera pastiche, in front of 1,000 people in Brooklyn Bridge Park; and *The Peace*, a new opera based on Aristophanes' play, with Vertical Player Repertory. He also directed *Uncomfortable Sex*, which won first prize at Manhattan Repertory Theatre's Fall One Act competition.

1997 |

Natacha Fontes-Merz, associate professor of mathematics at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa., was adviser to junior mathematics major Greg Clark for the Mathematical Association of America MathFest celebration which took place in Madison, Wis. in August. Greg presented "Famous Sequences and Euclidean Algorithm Step Sizes." Natacha has been at Westminster since 2004. ■ | The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University selected **Tsitsi Jaji** to be a Radcliffe Institute Fellow for the 2012-13 academic year. Tsitsi is

Walker Lewis '96

Criss Porterfield Kovac '00

part of a diverse incoming class that includes anthropologists, chemical engineers, linguists, literature professors, molecular biologists, musicologists, and visual artists. Her work and book project at the Radcliffe Institute is *Africa in Stereo: Music, Literature, and Film of Transnational Black Solidarity.*

1998 |

Andrew Platt was promoted to partner at Atmosphere Inc. in Washington, D.C. Andrew has been working in the lighting and special event industry since graduation. His work on the reopening of the National Museum of American History was featured in the April 2009 issue of *Live Design* magazine.

1999 |

Founder and artistic director of CONTRATIEMPO **Ana Maria Alvarez** was chosen to represent North America in the International Performing Arts for Youth Kindling program in Dusseldorf, Germany.

2000s

2000 |

Criss Porterfield Kovac and Peter Kovac '01 are happy to announce the birth of their baby girl, Cecilia Charlene ("Charlie"), on August 3, 2012. "We couldn't have asked for a happier or sleepier baby!"

2001 |

Composer **Jonathan Stinson** collaborated with librettist and creator Alan Marshall on *The March: A Civil Rights Opera* (*http://www.civilrightsopera.com/cr/about-the-march/*). The work was performed in Chicago on September 29 and 30, 2012, by American Chamber Opera, a relatively new African American-led company. ■ | **Nicolas Dosman** recently became director of the Colby Chorale and artistic director of the Colby-Kennebec Choral Society at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Nicolas leads the largest

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2012 AWARDS

Each year, the Oberlin Alumni Association recognizes several exceptional alumni.

The **Alumni Medal**, awarded during Commencement exercises and the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association, recognizes outstanding and sustained service to Oberlin College. It was awarded this year to **Daniel Gardner '89**. Daniel's passionate interest in civic engagement has led to leadership in community, economic, and environmental issues at the local, state, and national levels. As mayor and president of Oberlin City Council from 2004 to 2008, he engineered a landmark tax-sharing agreement with a neighboring township; completed the first update to the city's comprehensive plan since 1974; partnered with the Oberlin schools on a wholesale, progressive reform of the local tax system; and developed many policies and initiatives to make Oberlin a carbon-neutral community.

Three alumni were honored in September 2012 during the Oberlin Illuminate campaign kickoff weekend. The **Distinguished Achievement Award**, which recognizes outstanding contributions and achievements that reflect Oberlin's values in a career field, was given to **Nan Aron '70**. A leading voice in public interest law for more than 30 years, Nan is president of Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association of more than 100 public interest and civil rights organizations, which she founded in 1979. AFJ's mission is to ensure that all Americans have the right and opportunity to secure justice in the courts and to have their voices heard when government makes decisions that affect their lives.

The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes service and/or volunteer activities that reflect Oberlin's values by directly improving the quality of life for humanity. **Laura Stachel '80** is this year's honoree. Laura is the cofounder and medical director of WE CARE Solar, a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of women and infants by enhancing emergency obstetric care through the use of solar powered lighting, communication, and emergency equipment. She also serves on the editorial board for the *Berkeley Wellness Letter* and is a lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know of alumni who deserve recognition? Let the Alumni Association know. Nominations are accepted throughout the year. For information and lists of past recipients, please visit oberlin.edu/office/alumni/alumni-awards.

The **Outstanding Young Alumni Award**, given to **Matthew Kaplan '07**, is awarded to alumni who are 35 years or younger who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following areas: professional career, service to humanity, and service to Oberlin College. Matt served as the political director for President Obama's campaign in Northeast Ohio, managing the political relationships for the campaign and working to implement the president's statewide strategy for reelection. Matt has remained connected to his alma mater as a volunteer for the Oberlin Annual Fund, serving first as an associate class agent and then as a lead class agent. As a lead agent, he initiated multiple e-mail fundraising campaigns for his classmates, which resulted in increased gifts from this group of graduates.

The **Alumni Appreciation Award**, recognizing exceptional volunteer service or contributions to the Alumni Association, was awarded to **Gideon Y. Schein '68**. Gideon has tirelessly served Oberlin in various Alumni Council capacities over the years: as an admissions representative, communications committee member, career counselor, reunion gift committee member, and class president. Currently, he serves as a member of the President's Advisory Council. He has volunteered for Oberlin since the early '80s with the career services office, where he's served as a mentor and assisted students with career choices, and with the admissions office, serving as an admissions representative.

Each year, staff members in the Office of Admissions, Office of Development, and the Alumni Association also have the chance to recognize additional volunteers. This year, five alumni were honored: **Elana Gartner Golden '98**, Class Representative of the Year; **Rebecca Witheridge '10**, Regional Coordinator of the Year; **Patty Stubel '09** and **Mel Maisel '93**, Admissions Coordinators of the Year; and **Asheley Smith '03**, Class Agent of the Year. Also honored in September were retiring members of the Alumni Council's Executive Board: **Bálint Gergely '00**, **Andrea Hargrave '97**, **Lee Koonce '82**, and **Dwan Vanderpool Robinson '83**.

FOR FULL PROFILES ON THE WINNERS, VISIT OBERLIN.EDU/OAM

Laura Stachel '80, Matthew Kaplan '07, Nan Aron '70, and Gideon Schein '68 all received awards from the Alumni Association during the Oberlin Illuminate kickoff weekend.

OBERLIN'S TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCESS

I have filled many volunteer roles at Oberlin College over the years and one of the most rewarding was serving on the Alumni Council's Trustee Search Committee. I even chaired the committee from 1996 to 1999.

In the center of this issue of the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, you will find information about the two candidates currently up for election as alumni-elected trustees: Karen Buck Burgess '72 and Jacob Gayle '79. You will also find an election ballot that you can complete and mail back to the Oberlin College Alumni Association—you don't even need to pay for postage! Any person upon whom the college has conferred a degree is eligible to vote.

You may ask why the ballot is inserted into the magazine this time and why it is important to vote?

For at least 25 years, we have sent printed ballots and/or email announcements directly to eligible voters. In the past decade, we have encouraged online voting to reduce printing and mailing costs, while still mailing printed ballots to alumni in the earlier classes and to those for whom we don't have an email address. Unfortunately, the number of alumni voting each year has decreased significantly. In the early 1990s, approximately 6,000 alumni voted each election. In 2012, fewer than 2,700 votes were cast, which equates to fewer than 8 percent of our eligible alumni voting. We are sending a simple, postage-paid postcard ballot in the magazine this winter in hopes that the new approach will help us increase voter turnout.

Oberlin is unusual among liberal arts colleges in that six of the 34 seats on its Board of Trustees are filled through direct election by alumni. Your vote in this election presents an important opportunity to participate in one of the most enduring and important roles that we as alumni can play. Even if you believe that both candidates are qualified for a position on the Board of Trustees, and will serve Oberlin College well in the coming years, please take the time to review their credentials and vote. It costs nothing but has immense value.

Your vote in these elections not only counts directly for one of the candidates on the ballot, it also shows support for our opportunity as alumni to nominate candidates, for the volunteers on the Trustee Search Committee to thoroughly review the qualifications of all nominees and select candidates to appear on a ballot, and for us as alumni to continue to have a voice in selecting trustees. The volunteers who serve on the Trustee Search Committee—your peers—put in many hours to review nominee qualifications, interview candidates, and select the candidates presented to you for election each year. The candidates themselves also deserve a lot of credit and respect for their willingness to serve their alma mater as trustees and to appear on a competitive ballot.

Vote now and consider nominating an alumna/us for future consideration by the Trustee Search Committee. Send your nomination, including background information and a description of the assets the candidate would bring, to Danielle Young, Executive Director of the Alumni Association (danielle.young@oberlin.edu).

Information about the candidates and their responses to numerous relevant questions and a link for online voting can be found on the Alumni Association website at http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/.

Please tear out the ballot in this magazine and vote for one of our exceptional candidates and the continued opportunity for us—Oberlin College alumni—to select trustees of our alma mater.

Jackie Bradley Hughes '76
President, Oberlin Alumni Association

Brian Block '06

Kira McGirr '06

Nicolas Dosman '01

choral ensemble at Colby as well as the chamber choir, teaches applied voice, and is also an adjunct voice faculty member at Molloy College.

2002

William Lascher started writing his first book, a true story about Melville Jacoby, the first *Time* magazine reporter to die in the line of duty. Jacoby was a correspondent in wartime China and the Pacific. Only 25 years old at the time of his death, he married fellow journalist Annalee Whitmore just before Pearl Harbor; they were covering the conflict together when he died. William's grandmother, Peggy, was Jacoby's cousin.
[W:] http://lascheratlarge.com/melville

2003

Theresa Drake and Aaron Zimmerman were married on June 9, 2012, in Brooklyn, Wis. Obies in attendance were Adam Tate '04, Megan Whitman '05, and **Tracy Thomas**. Theresa met her husband while working in a student-run dairy at the University of Wisconsin. Both are in veterinary school and "hope to find employment in mixed-animal practices in order to work with their beloved ruminants as well as companion animals." They live in Madison.

Harper Jean Tobin was named one of the Top 40 LGBT Lawyers Under 40 by the National LGBT Bar Association. She recently entered her fourth year as director of public policy for the National Center for Transgender Equality in

Rachel Fine '07

Washington, D.C. This year she has spoken and presented at a variety of conferences including the American Society on Aging, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. She resides in Takoma Park, Md.

2004 |

Cortney Drake was awarded a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities graduate research fellowship by the Ohio State University Nisonger Center for her political advocacy work and current research in autism spectrum disorders. She is pursuing research on the inclusion of autistic self-advocates in the dialectic of autism as a neurological difference versus a neurodevelopmental deficit. ■ | **Sarah Benjamin Heath** and Robert Heath were married on June 9, 2012, at the Alvirne Chapel in Hudson, N.H. They honeymooned in Aruba and reside outside Boston, Mass. Sarah writes, "Rob is a non-Obie but makes up for it by being a British scientist. We are looking for new jobs in either the U.S. or the U.K."

2006 |

Brian Block and **Oriana Syed** were married on June 25, 2011, in Brookline, Mass., and again at the end of December 2011 in Mumbai, India. Obies in attendance in India included **Shiv Chaudhary**, **Madoka Koide**, **Pari Mody**, and **Alan Niles**; Ankit Modi '05; and Azadeh Pourzand and Ian Vandermuelen, both '07. Brian and Oriana moved to New York in June after Brian graduated from Harvard Medical School. He is a resident at New York Presbyterian Columbia University Medical Center, and Oriana is a freelance video editor and filmmaker. The photo was taken at the Mehandi ceremony on December 28, 2011. Top row (left to right): Alan, Madoka, Pari, and Ian. Bottom row: Oriana and Brian. ■ | **Meghan Donnelly** and **Ricardo Lagomasino** were married August 25, 2012, in Philadelphia. The ceremony, performed by Mayor Michael Nutter at City Hall, was broadcast live via the Internet so that friends and family from California and Puerto Rico could be a part of the day. Obies in attendance were **Seth Auster-Rosen**, **Valerie Baron**, **Sarah DeGiorgis**, **Brendan Evans**, **Charlie Gill**, **Caitlin Goodman**, **Hannah Greene**, **Emily Guendelsberger**, **Scott** and **Gretchen Harms-Pritchard**, **Alli Katz**, **Spencer Russell**, and **Ann Stock**; David Fishkin '01; and Jonathan Pfeffer '07. ■ | **Kira McGirr** and Charles McGuire '91 are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Elliot Drake McGuire, on August 4, 2012, in Westlake, Ohio. Kira writes, "All are doing well and becoming acquainted with each other and adjusting to parenthood." Though he'll grow up in Oberlin, Kira and Charles hope "that their 'Oberbaby' will join the Class of 2034 or perhaps 2035, if he's double-degree like his father."

2007 |

Rachel Fine and Gervaise Mourlet were married June 16, 2012, in Downsville, N.Y. and reside in Brooklyn. Oberlin alumni in attendance were **Laurel Bear**, **Hannah**

VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR 2013 REUNION!

Join other classmates in shaping the activities for your next reunion.

10th Reunion
Classes of **2002**, **2003**, **2004**

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30th Reunion
Classes of **1982**, **1983**, **1984**

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Classes of **1967**, **1968**, **1969**

50th Reunion
Class of **1963**

Half-Century Club Reunions
Classes of **1952**, **1953**, **1954**

To get involved contact the Alumni Office at **440-775-8692** or **alumni@oberlin.edu**.

CONSERVATORY SUMMER PROGRAMS 2013

Flute Workshop for Teachers
Friday, May 31–Sunday, June 2

Oberlin in Italy
Wednesday, June 5–Tuesday, July 9

Baroque Performance Institute
Sunday, June 16–Sunday, June 30

Sonic Arts Workshop: Composing Electronic & Computer Music
Sunday, June 23–Sunday, June 30

Composition Workshop
Sunday, June 30–Saturday, July 6

Oberlin Summer Organ Academy for High School Students
Sunday, June 30–Friday, July 5

Oberlin Trumpet Workshop
Sunday, June 30–Wednesday, July 10

Oberlin Percussion Institute
Sunday, July 7–Saturday, July 13

Flute Academy for High School Students
Wednesday, July 10–Sunday, July 14

Vocal Academy for High School Students
Friday, July 12–Sunday, July 21

The Thomas & Evon Cooper Competition: Violin
Thursday, July 18–Saturday, July 27

For more information on these conservatory summer programs, please visit oberlin.edu/con/summer

Adriaan Follansbee Gomez '08

Anna Vasilieva '08

Godlove, **Mary Notari**, **Margrit Pittman-Polletta**, **Indra Raj**, **Paul Tynan Artaban McKenney**, and Johnny Butler '06.

2008 |

Pianist **Anna Vasilieva** was named music director, organist, pianist, and choir director at United Methodist Church of the Redeemer in Cleveland. She is working on her artist diploma in collaborative piano as a student of Anita Pontremoli at the Cleveland Institute of Music and has been appointed executive director of the Russian Heritage Piano Competition in Saint Petersburg, Russia. In July she was a guest artist at the Piano Plus International Festival in Athens, Greece. ■ | **Adriaan Follansbee Gomez** and Erick Gomez were married on May 19, 2012, in El Paso, Texas. They live in Washington, D.C., and are excited about starting the next stage of their lives in a new city. Obies in attendance at the wedding were **Andrea Canini**, **Ryan Squire**, **Courtney Merrell**, **Frances Zlotnick**, and **Dan Gessner**. "It was a great time! Not only are we all still friends, but we were also on the same hall together our freshman year!

2009 |

Katherine Ewald writes, "*Sight Unseen*, an experimental film series I developed with two non-Obies, won the 2012 Launch Artists in Baltimore Award of $10,000."

ZOE MADONNA '15

NICELY DUNN

Jack Dunn '10 arrived at Dill Field over Homecoming Weekend thinking he would be playing in an alumni baseball game. Instead, he'd arrived at the official dedication of a new press box bearing his name.

"It was awesome, I couldn't believe it," says Dunn, who pitched for the Yeomen baseball team for four years. He thanked coaches Eric Lahetta and Adrian Abrahamowicz, the Oberlin athletics department, and his parents, Jack and Sheri Dunn, whose generosity made the press box possible.

A three-time All-NCAC selection, Dunn is the school record holder for career wins, with 16. A member of the 2010 team that set the school record for wins in a season, he also had a no-hit performance against Lake College on May 5, 2007. However, arguably the best outing of his career came on April 6, 2008, when he guided the Yeomen to a 4-2 win over the College of Wooster, which was ranked No. 2 in the nation at that time. In the complete-game victory, he recorded six strikeouts and walked just two. In his career, Dunn registered 206 strikeouts. As part of the dedication, his No. 7 jersey was retired and hung inside the press box.

2010s

2011 |

Eilís M. O'Neill produced a 30-minute documentary, *From Crisis to Cooperatives: Lessons From Argentina's Cartoneros*, for Free Speech Radio News to mark Labor Day. ●

CAMPAIGN TRAIL MIX

The fall 2012 Convocation series kicked off September 13 in Finney Chapel with "An Evening With Obie Journalists Covering the 2012 Election," a panel discussion featuring four distinguished alumni journalists—Peter Baker '88, Felice Belman '88, Michael Duffy '80, and Beth Fouhy '83. For more information, visit oberlin.edu/oam.

Alumni Travel Program

OBIEADVENTURE! FLORIDA KEYS KAYAK, SNORKELING & CAMPING

March 7-10, 2013

Escorted by Dan Stinebring, Francis D. Federighi Professor/Chair, Physics and Astronomy

Join fellow Obies for a "low cost, high value" getaway in the Florida Keys where we leave the highway sounds of US 1 behind and delve into a world where fish school through shallow flats and stingrays lay silent at the bottom of turquoise blue channels. In short, we'll be using 5-star kayaks instead of 5-star hotels! We'll kayak through The Seven Mile Bridge, which spans Caribbean-blue open water, originally built to carry Henry Flagler's Railroad, paddle between the old and new with a stop on Historic Pigeon Key, and explore and snorkel winding creeks and shallow coves. The experience level on this trip is "beginner/intermediate." Participants must be able to paddle eight-to-eleven miles per day in open water conditions, with wind that can range from five-to-twenty knots. Kayaks, paddles, tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, dry bags, and all meals are included! Please call the Alumni Office at 440-775-8692 for more information.

BERLIN: A CONNOISSEUR'S CITY

June 2-9, 2013

Escorted by Liliana Milkova, PhD, Curator of Academic Programs, Allen Memorial Art Museum

Explore the dynamic city of Berlin and its rich cultural heritage. Eight times the size of Paris, this comparatively young capital is home to some of the greatest art and architecture on the continent. The destruction during WWII and division of the city during the Cold War left space for a unique juxtaposition of traditional and modern, perfectly exemplified by I.M. Pei's stunning glass addition to the Baroque Zeughaus (arsenal) housing the German Historical Museum. Tour the famed Pergamon Museum, with its exceptional antiquities collection, the Gemäldegalerie's collection of paintings by the Old Masters, and the emotionally powerful Jewish Museum, as well as several others. Take a private tour of one of Berlin's outstanding contemporary art collections. Enjoy a day trip to nearby Potsdam and see Frederick the Great's summer retreat, Sanssouci Palace, and the historic Cecilienhof Palace, site of the Potsdam Conference after WWII. Brochure available.

CHILE PAST & PRESENT: MODERN CITIES & NATURAL WONDERS

October 18-29, 2013

Escorted by Professor of History Steven Volk

Explore the stunning natural beauty, fascinating history, and vibrant cities of Chile with distinguished Oberlin history professor Steven Volk, who has been recognized by the Chilean government for his contributions to restoring democracy to that country. Professor Volk also had the recent honor of being named the 2011 Outstanding Baccalaureate Colleges U.S. Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Begin in Santiago, ringed by majestic mountain ranges, with visits to the renowned Pre-Columbian Art Museum and the home of Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda. Meet Judge Juan Guzman, who brought General Pinochet to justice, and see some of the city's finest art galleries on a private tour. Visit the beautiful coastal city of Valparaiso and travel through the picturesque Maipo Valley to the Santa Rita Winery for a tasting. In Patagonia, travel by catamaran to the spectacular San Rafael Glacier and follow forested footpaths through the tranquil scenery of a private reserve. Brochure available.

SAVE THE DATE! ISTANBUL: MARCH 22-30, 2014

For more information visit http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/travel-tours/. If you would like to receive electronic news and brochures about our programs, please call 440-775-8692 or e-mail Deb.Stanfield@oberlin.edu. Please consider traveling with fellow Obies! Oberlin parents welcome!

1931 |

Rosetta Winona Jack Wherley spent most of her life in Stone Creek, Ohio, with her husband, Harold, and children. She taught Sunday school at Grace Community Church, gave children's swimming lessons, and belonged to the Stone Creek bridge club. She died September 13, 2012, at age 102. Mrs. Wherley leaves two daughters, including Susan Wherley Hisrich '58; four sons, including James Wherley '69; 19 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren.

1933 |

Marjorie Tarr Risko earned her degree in early childhood education and taught in Mount Vernon, Ohio, for many years. She was an active member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ and a member of Knox Chapter 236 of the Order of Eastern Star. She died in Mount Vernon at age 99 on September 15, 2012, leaving two sons, eight grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. Her sister, Evelyn Tarr Watson '33, died just one day earlier. Her brother, Charles Tarr '41, died in WWII in 1944.

Evelyn Tarr Watson taught religion in Ohio's Mount Vernon City Schools and Fredericktown Local Schools in the 1930s. She also volunteered at Interchurch Social Services, served on the boards of Hannah Browning Home and Habitat for Humanity, and was a charter member of Kokosing Day Care Center (Head Start). She died in Mount Vernon at the age of 100 on September 14, 2012, leaving three sons, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Her sister, Marjorie Tarr Risko '33, died just one day later; a brother, Charles Tarr '41, died in 1944 in WWII.

1936 |

Ruth Siegfried Wassenich married her husband, Paul, in 1938. Both earned degrees at the University of Chicago Theological Seminary and served churches in Ohio, Michigan, and Texas. In the late 1940s, Mrs. Wassenich studied library science at the University of Texas and later became the chief catalog librarian at Texas Christian University, retiring in 1977. As parents, she and her husband celebrated education, tolerance, the arts, and the importance of social equality. She died September 9, 2012, in Fort Worth, leaving three sons, two grandsons, and two great-grandsons.

1941 |

Fern Eschliman Ashby did graduate work in mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, where she met and married Lowell D. Ashby. In 1945, she began a teaching career at the University of Wisconsin as a mathematics instructor for returning WWII veterans. She later worked as a computer programmer at the University of North Carolina and taught mathematics at Mount Vernon Seminary in Washington, D.C., and George-Mason Junior-Senior High in Falls Church, Va. An active member of her neighborhood study club and various educational associations, she also enjoyed family time, sewing, and gardening. Mrs. Ashby died March 14, 2012, in Arlington, Va., leaving a daughter, Genette Ashby-Beach '69; a son; and three grandchildren.

Susanna "Susie" Doyle Eickemeyer Brown married Karl F. Eickemeyer '41 after graduating and traveled the U.S. and the world during his 30-year military career. After his death, she moved to San Antonio, Texas, where she published two books, *Choices*, a collection of essays that chronicle her life, and *The Small Book*, a compilation of the journals of Judge Small, her great grandfather. During those years, she married Robert Perry and Jack Brown and was widowed twice. With a life characterized by curiosity, a belief in racial and women's equality, and a zest for learning, Mrs. Brown enjoyed sewing, cooking, volunteering for literacy, genealogy, writing, and computers. She died August 11, 2012, leaving three children, 10 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

1942 |

Dr. Stuart L. Knowlton enlisted in the Army Air Corps after Oberlin and, as a cadet, was sent to Mount Union College, where he met the love of his life, Evelyn. He spent the next four years in service to his country, including helping to evacuate survivors of the Bataan Death March. He married Lynn and earned a PhD in industrial economics at MIT, later moving to Birmingham, Mich., to work for Chrysler and then for the Ford Motor Company, where he developed training programs and also taught evening classes at Wayne State and Oakland universities. After early retirement from Ford, Dr. Knowlton spent 18 years as a professor of business at Central Michigan University until retiring at age 78. He and Lynn enjoyed their cottage near Petoskey, Mich., for many years and moved to Sun City, Georgetown, Texas, in 1999. He died August 28, 2012, leaving his wife of 64 years, three children, and nine grandchildren.

1943 |

Jeanne Martin Skyrm Hayman taught school for three years after graduating from the conservatory. She met her husband, Richard Skyrm, at Oberlin, and the two moved to Idaho, where she taught piano lessons in the Caldwell area for 60 years, retiring in 2009. She was director of the Boone Memorial Presbyterian Church youth choirs in the 1950s and 1960s and a longtime member of the philanthropic organization PEO. A member of the Idaho Music Teachers Association, Music Teachers National Association, and Thursday Musicale, she enjoyed entertaining, traveling, reading, interior design, and bridge. Dick died in 1981, and she later married Paul Hayman, who died in 2009. Mrs. Hayman died August 1, 2012, leaving three daughters and two grandchildren.

1946 |

Dr. Robert W. Friedrichs attended Antioch College before transferring to Oberlin. He went on to teach English in Shiangdu, China, from 1946 to 1948 with the Oberlin in China Program, then attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he met his wife, Polly, and received his PhD in sociology. Dr. Friedrichs was a professor of sociology at Drew University and Williams College and won the Sorrokin Prize for his book, *A Sociology of Sociology*, which was widely read in his field. He enjoyed summers on Martha's Vineyard with his family and moved to Exeter, N.H., in 2004. He died October 10, 2012, leaving his wife of 61 years, three children, eight grandchildren, one great grandchild, and two brothers.

1948 |

Dr. Chester Gray Dunham was in Oberlin's special class of 1948—students who entered Oberlin in 1943, but whose college years were interrupted by Army service during WWII. He served with the State Department from 1949 to 1964, and, after receiving his doctorate from Ohio State University, taught U.S. history and American foreign relations at the University of Arizona. Dr. Dunham retired from the National

MEMORIAL MINUTE | DR. DANIEL TROEN MOE

We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams

—Arthur O'Shaughnessy

Dr. Daniel Moe's joy in making music was wonderfully contagious, and his long tenure as professor of choral conducting at Oberlin allowed throngs of singers and listeners to savor that particular delight. As the son of a Lutheran minister, his upbringing and heritage profoundly shaped his understanding of the power of choral singing and also rooted his sense of vocation in ideals of peace, human harmony, and the affirmation of life, an affirmation that he understood as an act of praise. These ideals lie beyond the notes of the score, but as he understood so well, they are ideals that those selfsame notes could movingly inspire and express.

Undergraduate study at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., brought him under the influence of Paul J. Christiansen, scion of the Norwegian choral patriarch, F. Melius Christiansen. In that milieu, Daniel discovered his passion. He recalled, "I had wanted to do something for humanity, to do something useful, and the obvious choice was the ministry. But I thought, if I could have my own chorus, if I could work with young people and make beautiful music, I'd be in heaven." The path to that particular corner of heaven unfolded with graduate study at the University of Washington (MA, 1952) and the University of Iowa (PhD, 1961) and faculty appointments at Iowa and the University of Southern California. He came to Oberlin in 1972, and in doing so, undoubtedly smiled at the fact that the Oberlin Choir had been founded and led by yet another Norwegian musical compatriot, another Christiansen — F. Melius's son, Olaf. For the next 20 years, Daniel directed the Oberlin choral ensembles with ambitious programming, high standards, and memorably impressive achievement. He invariably worked with an animated twinkle in his eye, a twinkle that seemed decidedly more real than metaphorical, and this proved a congenial reminder that perhaps the best music-making begins with the inner spark.

Although Oberlin knew him best as a conductor, his prolificity as a composer made him a household name in church music circles. As his numerous compositions reveal, he brought a highly polished sense of craft to his pieces and a well-honed, practical understanding of the choirs that would sing them. Unsurprisingly, his works also show an affinity for social themes that he held dear, as in his Vietnam-era "Cantata for Peace," later sung at the 1993 opening mass for World Youth Day and papal visitation in Denver, Colorado.

Daniel left Oberlin in 1992 for an active retirement in Sarasota, Fla., with many years ahead as the conductor of the Key Chorale. He also held an adjunct faculty post at New College of Florida, as well as an appointment as composer-in-residence at Sarasota's Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, where he collaborated with his wife, the organist Ann Stephenson-Moe.

Numerous honors came Daniel's way, including honorary doctorates from Gustavus Adolphus College and Concordia College and the Canticum Novum Award from Wittenberg University. His many compositions and two books on choral conducting have already secured for him an enduring place in the lives of choirs and conductors for many years to come, but it was his personal vibrancy and generosity that secured for him an enduring place in our hearts.

Daniel said farewell to Oberlin with a stunning performance of Benjamin Britten's imposing *War Requiem*, a work whose social theme and musical heft powerfully reflected the arc of his career. Impressive and moving, the work proved to be both valediction and benediction in equal parts. The last words of the *War Requiem* — Daniel's parting words to us — are the familiar prayer for the peaceful repose of the dead: *requiescant in pace.* They are words that we now return to him, our colleague and friend.

Daniel Moe died on May 24, 2012, at the age of 85.

Steven Plank
Andrew B. Meldrum Professor and Chair
Department of Musicology

Archives in Washington, D.C. His assignments in the State Department included American Consulate, Salzburg; American Consulate General, Algiers; American Consulate General, Accra; American Embassy, Prague; and Department of State, Washington, D.C. Dr. Dunham died October 15, 2012, leaving his wife; daughters, including Camilla Dunham Whitehead '79; a brother; and grandchildren.

Robert Otis Brunner fought with the 78th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge, the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest, and the capture of the Remagen Bridge before returning to Oberlin to graduate. He earned a master's degree in economics from Western Reserve University and worked for the U.S. government in a number of capacities, including for the Marshall Plan, the Federal Reserve, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and the Social Security Administration. Following his retirement he worked for the American Association of Retired Persons in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Olga '48, shared a love of opera and classical music. They attended many concerts and performances and were longtime supporters of historical preservation and arts organizations, including the Baltimore Symphony. Mr. Brunner died at Vantage House Retirement Community in Columbia, Md., on July 30, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, three sons, seven granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter.

1951

After serving in the Army Air Corps during WWII, **Robert Ebel** arrived at Oberlin, where he captained the college's last undefeated football team and pitched for the baseball team. He met and married his lifetime partner, Marjorie McLean '51, and moved to the Cleveland area, where they began their careers and family before

relocating to River Forest, Ill. For 30 years, Mr. Ebel was an administrator, math teacher, and sports coach at Oak Park-River Forest High School. He and Marge met their dream of living on the white, sandy beaches of Florida when they retired to Anna Maria in 1982, where Mr. Ebel sang bass in his church choir and periodically taught math in local high schools and community colleges. After 20 years of beach life, they moved to Perico Bay Club and then to Bradenton, where Mr. Ebel died on July 26, 2012. He leaves his wife, two daughters, a son, and three grandsons.

Eunice Jean Rasch McWharter was one of OSCA's founding members at Pyle Inn and paved the way for her daughter, Karen McWharter '77, and grandson, Jackson Evans '15—both OSCA members and enthusiasts. She married Royce McWharter '50 in Oberlin on June 12, 1951. She later earned a master's degree in social work at Bryn Mawr College and enjoyed a 20-year career as a school social worker in Western Montgomery County, Pa., where she facilitated communication between teachers and families of emotionally disturbed and learning disabled children. An avid and insightful reader and skilled knitter and seamstress in retirement, Mrs. McWharter died August 21, 2012, after a two-year struggle with cancer. In addition to her husband, daughter, and grandson, she leaves two sons, sister Elena Rasch Speidel '57, and three other grandchildren.

1953

The Reverend Doctor **Richard Winton Sales** studied at the Chicago Theological Seminary, earning a master's of divinity degree in 1956. He and his wife, Jane, were assigned to a South African mission in 1957 by the United Church Board of World Ministries and worked there until 1971. They did further graduate study in Chicago, earning their doctorates in theology and history, respectively. After Jane's death in 1974, Rev. Sales married Nancy Magorian, and the two spent the next decade working for the mission board in Botswana and Zambia, where he developed theological education extension programs. Later, back in the U.S., he worked in Atlanta and pastored in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala., churches, retiring in 1997 and remaining active as a volunteer at Greater Birmingham Ministries and in part-time employment in theological education with the UCC Southeast Conference. Rev. Sales died August 30, 2012, in Birmingham, leaving his wife; three children, including Anne Sales '82; and three granddaughters.

1954

Barbara Girton Bolle studied voice and piano in the conservatory and continued her education at New York University, majoring in occupational therapy and later serving as an occupational therapist for physically impaired children in New York in the 1990s. She sang in many choirs and experienced a rich life, traveling with her husband, Donald, a professor at Lehigh University. She died March 20, 2012, at her home in Coopersburg, Pa., leaving her husband, four sons, and two granddaughters.

Dr. Daniel Orr was a noted economics professor who was best known for a finance and monetary economics model named after him (the Miller and Orr model). With a PhD from Princeton, he began his teaching career at Amherst College and the University of Chicago before moving to the University of California at San Diego in the mid-1960s to help build an economics department. He chaired the department there for 10 years before becoming head of the economics department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and later, at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. In retirement, he and his wife, Mary Lee Hayes Orr '57, moved to Frankfort, Mich., where, living adjacent to Crystal Downs Golf Club, he had full rein to pursue his love of golf. He also had a passion for exploration and adventure, and he often took his family on wilderness fishing/paddling trips to Canada. Dr. Orr died at home on June 6, 2012, leaving his wife, two children, and three grandchildren. His daughter, Rebecca Orr, died in a car accident while a student at Oberlin in 1982. Contributions in Dr. Orr's name may be directed to the Rebecca Cary Orr Memorial Prize in Mathematics Fund at Oberlin via www.oberlin.edu/giving.

1957

Virginia "Ginny" Service McCormick majored in history at Oberlin, having discovered later in life that her real passion was art history. She eventually became a volunteer at the National Gallery of Art after working as a secretary, school aide, and literacy volunteer. She was a member of the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda, Md., for more than 45 years, where she volunteered and taught Sunday school. A volume of her poems, *Some Days Are Orange Days*, was printed in 1989. She raised four children, including John McCormick '91, and cared for her husband, Garth McCormick '56, after his stroke in 1992. Mrs. McCormick died August 24, 2012, in Chevy Chase, Md., four years to the day after her husband died. In addition to her children, she leaves three grandchildren and two brothers, including Robert Service '58. Her parents, John Service and Caroline Schulz Service, graduated from Oberlin in 1931.

Judy Hollinger Thibaudeau lived a life centered on her family and faith, and she enjoyed years of teaching, advocacy, and nurturing within the Okemos (Mich.) Public Schools. She loved to garden and observe the birds feeding near her back porch, but her greatest joys were her children and grandchildren. Mrs. Thibaudeau died February 21, 2012, leaving her husband of 54 years, Kent; four sons; 10 grandchildren; and a sister.

1958

Bruce Porter earned a bachelor of music degree in organ performance at the conservatory and a master of sacred music degree at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He served as minister of music in churches in Keene, N.H., and in Springfield, Worcester, and Granby, Conn. He also worked for the Berkshire and Southfield Organ Companies. Mr. Porter taught keyboard and other musical studies at Keene State College and, for 10 years, was a music teacher in the Fall Mountain District in New Hampshire. Along with Dita Englund, he founded the Keene Chorale in 1979 and directed that group for seven years. He belonged to the American Guild of Organists and the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, and he directed several handbell choirs. Mr. Porter died December 26, 2011, in East Granbury, Conn., leaving his wife, children and stepchildren, and grandchildren.

1967

Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Ann Johnson received a doctorate degree in clinical psychology at Boston University. She held a private practice in child and family therapy in Braintree, Mass., and was a staff psychologist at South Shore Mental Health Center and East

Boston Mental Health Center. Dr. Johnson lived in the Boston area for more than 30 years and in Everett, Wash., for the past seven, where she held a private practice. She died May 1, 2012, in Boston, and is survived by her partner, John Caldwell, and a daughter.

1974

William Maiben, an award-winning Utah composer, died in Salt Lake City on May 24, 2012, after a prolonged illness. His compositions include a concerto for two violins and orchestra; a comic opera, *Snowbird*; songs and song cycles; electronic music; rock music; solo piano music; and a large catalog of chamber music. Mr. Maiben earned a master's degree at the University of Utah and did doctoral work in composition at Columbia University with Vladimir Ussachevsky. He won the Morton Gould Young Composer Award of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Foundation, and was awarded the Charles Ives Scholarship by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. An accomplished pianist, Mr. Maiben was several times a finalist in the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. His New York debut recital, an all-Debussy program in Carnegie Recital Hall, garnered praise from Bernard Holland in the *New York Times*: "Mr. Maiben has built a solid base on which to rest his interpretations of Debussy. His technique is reliable; he has respect for the composer's rhythmic subtleties, and above all he seems to love this great music as it deserves to be loved." William is survived by a daughter, two sisters, and a grandson.

1984

Mi Kyung Lee died August 26, 2012, in Reston, Va., after living with multiple myeloma, a type of cancer that eventually shut down her immune system. For several years, while the cancer was in remission, Ms. Lee actively worked with others suffering from the same disease. She traveled to South Korea in 2011 to hold a workshop in which she shared her nonconventional cancer treatment, which was based on diet and exercise. An avid hiker who made weekly hikes along the Shenandoah, she is missed by her husband, Andy, as well as her daughter, parents, and siblings. ●

There are just two condos left in the alumni-driven East College Street development in Downtown Oberlin, next to the Apollo and across the street from the planned Oberlin Project.

The condos are each spacious two bedroom units with open floor plans

The green development features an Oberlin College Art Gallery, shops and restaurants, and the home of the Oberlin Alumni Association. Many of the new residents are alumni who have moved back to town. If you have ever imagined living in Oberlin, please contact us for more information.

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"I'm desperate to make it and write it and I don't know how. I would love to make it, more than anything else I've not written."

Author **William Goldman '52,** about crafting a sequel to his modern classic *The Princess Bride.* In herocomplex.latimes.com.

"IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT OBERLIN COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE COMFORTABLE WITH, IT'S NUDITY. I WAS SHOCKED MY FRESHMAN YEAR; I SAW MORE NAKED PEOPLE IN MY FIRST MONTH AT OBERLIN THAN I HAD IN MY ENTIRE LIFE."

Oberlin Review sports editor **Phoebe Hammer '13**. In the Oct. 5, 2012, *Review.*

"ALMOST AS MENACING TO THE DICTATORS AS THEIR IMPOVERISHED ECONOMIC SITUATION, AS THE REARMAMENT AND DIPLOMATIC STIFFENING OF THE DEMOCRACIES AFTER MUNICH, IS THE NEW WEAPON OF SHORT-WAVE RADIO."

Allen M. Bailey '36, in the May 1939 *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*

"The hours are weird but I set them myself. I can't complain."

—**Charles Edward Hufnagel-Dvorak '11**, about working through the services-for-hire website TaskRabbit, which hired him to camp out in line at an Apple store so a client could be among the first to own an iPhone 5. In vanityfair.com.

"My intent with jazz was just to **hear everything.**"

Early jazz aficionado **James Neumann '58**, whose massive collection of LPs, 45s, 78s, CDs and other materials—the James and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection—is now housed in the Oberlin Conservatory. In the *Oberlin Review.*

Full circle

In 1958, Harvey Culbert and Louise Luckenbill were classmates and friends at Oberlin College. Years passed, time for building careers and raising families in different locations. Nearly 50 years later, Harvey and Louise were reunited at an Oberlin College class reunion. Their friendship grew into romance. They were married in 2009 and now enjoy together all that Oberlin and Kendal have to offer.

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Harvey Culbert and Louise Luckenbill enjoy a winter stroll on Kendal's Buttonbush Bridge. Photo by Andrew Spear.

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THE WORLD ON THE MOON

Oberlin Opera Theater's production of *Il Mondo Della Luna* was performed in Hall Auditorium in early November.

PHOTO BY JOHN SEYFRIED